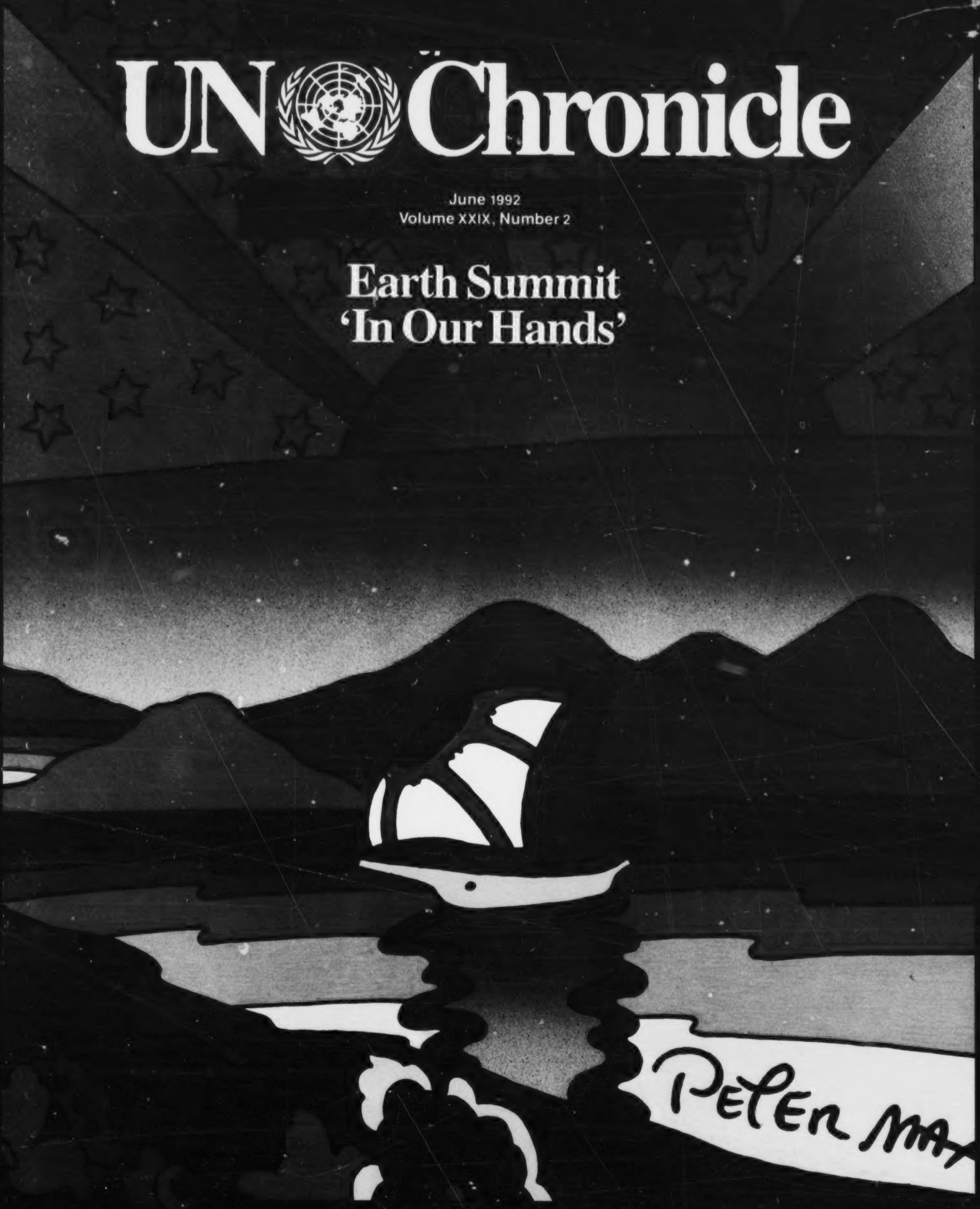
UN Chronicle

June 1992
Volume XXIX, Number 2

Earth Summit 'In Our Hands'



Department of Public Information
United Nations

'The only home we have'

"Earth is the only home we have; its fate is literally in our hands", Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992), has said.

To focus attention on the unique responsibility every inhabitant of our planet has for realizing the goals of the Conference, a special "Earth Pledge" has been composed, with the hope that millions will sign it. The Pledge reads:

"Recognizing that people's actions towards nature and each other are the source of growing damage to the environment and resources needed to meet human needs and to ensure survival and development,

"I pledge to act to the best of my ability to help make the Earth a secure and hospitable home for present and future generations."

Our cover is based on artwork created by American artist Peter Max for one of three special UN stamps—collectively entitled "Beautiful Planet Visions"—issued by the UN Postal Administration on the occasion of the Earth Summit. Using the vibrant colours of the visionary pop-art style for which he became famous in the 1960s, Mr. Max told the *UN Chronicle* that the cover image, "Zen Boat with Galaxy Sky", depicts "the ecology of tomorrow". It is, he said, "a vision of the Earth in harmony and balance".

Published quarterly in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
Department of Public Information
New York

Under-Secretary-General for Public Information: Eugeniusz Wyzner.
Editor-in-Chief: Betty Flynn-Connors.
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Ghulam Ahmed Nanji.
Writers: Nancy Seufert, Sergei Vinogradov.
Editorial Assistants: Annette Ifill, Valeria Criscione Olson, Herminia Roque, Teresita Q. Victoria.
Production staff: Laura Frischeisen, Patrice Lerochereuil, Arnaldo Ponce. **Intern:** Maarit Peltoniemi-Ojala
BookWatch: Harold Fruchtbaum.
French edition: Marc Chalamet.
Cover design by Graphic Presentation Unit (DCS).

The *UN Chronicle* (USPS 647-380) is published quarterly by the United Nations Department of Public Information in New York. Not an official record. All material may be freely reprinted but acknowledgement is requested. A copy of the publication containing reprinted material should be sent to *UN Chronicle*, United Nations, Room DC1-530, New York 10017. All editorial correspondence should be forwarded to the same address.

Subscriptions should be sent to United Nations Publications, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. Subscription rates for academic and non-profit organizations and individuals are $20 for one year, $35 for two years and $50 for three years. For commercial institutions, the rate is $28 annually. Postmaster, send address changes to United Nations Publications, United Nations, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. Second class postage paid at New York and additional mailing offices.

UN CHRONICLE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

VOLUME XXIX Number 2 June 1992

CONTENTS

JANUARY — APRIL 1992

COVER: *The Earth Summit* (pp.40-63)
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
3-14 June 1992

Largest UN peace-keeping operation scheduled for Cambodia (p.10)

Political News

Historic Security Council summit (p.4)
New UN peace-keeping operations:
  in Cambodia (p.10)
  in Yugoslavia (p.15)
Conditional sanctions imposed against Libya (p.19)
UN team sent to Somalia (p.22)
Iraq nuclear facility destroyed, other developments (p.24)
Central America peace process goes on (p.29)
South Africans vote 'yes' to end apartheid (p.32)
UNAVEM mandate enlarged (p.33)
Delay in Western Sahara mission (p.35)
Afghanistan, Cyprus developments (pp.36-37)
Middle East notes (p.38)
Nine new members join UN (p.39)
1992 Conference on Disarmament opens (p.64)
Law of the Sea developments (p.66)

Economic and Social Issues

'Spirit' and 'Commitment' of Cartagena:
  Results of UNCTAD VIII (p.67)
Development notes (p.71)
Commission on Human Rights (p.72)
Women's issues discussed (p.76)

IN EVERY ISSUE

The 38th Floor (p.2)
A Look Back: From Stockholm to Rio (p.63)
BookWatch (p.77)
News Almanac (p.78)
Stamp Corner (p.79)
Coming Up (p.80)

THE 38th FLOOR

UN Photo 179300/M. Grant

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali meeting with Idriss Jazairy, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, on 6 February. Contacts with high level officials from around the world take place daily on the 38th floor.

Clearing the line of command . . .

After barely a month in office, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali unveiled on 7 February what he described as the "first phase" of a comprehensive exercise to streamline the UN bureaucracy. In his inaugural address, he had promised to ensure that the UN was fully adapted to "new requirements of international action".

Effective 29 February, he said, 12 major departments or offices would be merged and at least 14 high-ranking posts—at the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant-Secretary-General levels—eliminated. His plan called for the creation of four completely new Departments.

By taking these actions, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he was "concentrating the decision-making process in seven key departments and clearing the line of command". He indicated that a second phase of the restructuring would take place after one year.

The changes reflected the emphasis of the Security Council Summit meeting of 31 January in which world leaders had affirmed the UN's role in maintaining peace in the post-cold-war era. They had invited the Secretary-General to submit, by 1 July, recommendations on how to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the Organization's capacity for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping.

In addressing UN staff on 22 January, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali stated that he placed the highest value on the quality of management. "My management policy will be to delegate and expect managers to manage", he said.

The UN had moved from a "consultative, deliberative body" to become an "increasingly operational institution", he stated. "The nature of administration must therefore change. I will, *inter alia*, do everything within my power to make administrative procedures simpler, more transparent and easier to follow."

Four new Departments

Among the changes were:

- Two Under-Secretaries-General—Vladimir Petrovsky of the Russian Federation and James Jonah of Sierra Leone—to oversee the work of a newly-created, comprehensive Department of Political Affairs, which incorporates the responsibilities of five former departments and offices;
- A new Department of Peace-keeping Operations, headed by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding of the United Kingdom;
- The new Department of Economic and Social Development—encompassing the work of four now-defunct major UN units—headed by Ji Chaozhu of China; and
- A fourth new Department—created to deal with humanitarian affairs—led by Jan Eliasson of Sweden, who also has the title of Emergency Relief Coordinator.

The Legal Department, headed by Under-Secretary-General Carl-August Fleischhauer of Germany, will absorb the functions of the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

Other new appointments included: Eugeniusz Wyzner of Poland (previously head of the Department of Conference Services) as Under-Secretary-General for Public Information and Richard Thornburgh (former United States Attorney General and two-time Governor of Pennsylvania) as Under-Secretary-General of an expanded Department of Administration and Management.

Switched between high-level posts were: Antoine Blanca of France, from Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to head of the UN Office in Geneva; and Giorgio Giacomelli of Italy, to head of the UN Office in Vienna, while continuing as Executive Director of the UN International Drug Control Programme. Under-Secretary-General Margaret Joan Anstee of the United Kingdom was appointed Special Representative for Angola and Chief of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

Excerpts from statements by UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali made between 1 January and 31 March 1992

Behind the clamour . . .

Behind the clamour of conflict, the tumult of aspirations and resentments, there is hope—the hope that the United Nations will act. The peoples expect Member States, and in particular those in a position to help, to rise above their rivalries, to respond to the people's need for dignity, equity and justice, and to make the spirit of conciliation and dialogue prevail.

On the occasion of the extraordinary Security Council Summit,
New York, 31 January

About women and development . . .

Without eliminating poverty in the rural areas and discrimination against women, the larger objectives of human development and peace cannot be achieved. Discrimination feeds poverty and poverty feeds conflict. Conflict and poverty reinforce discrimination.

To the Summit on the Economic Advancement
of Rural Women, organized by IFAD,
Geneva, 25 February

Constructive parallelism . . .

Sharing the same ideals and facing common challenges, our two institutions have come to similar conclusions on our priorities and on our actions regarding peace and security—preventive diplomacy, disarmament, economic and social development, human rights and democracy . . . I hope that this constructive parallelism will contribute to the creation of a peaceful and cooperative order in Europe, and provide inspiration for joint endeavours in other regions of the world.

In a message to the Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on
Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Helsinki, Finland, 27 March

READEX
FICHE

'At the highest level'

Historic Security Council session reaffirms commitment to collective security

Wants report on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping

UN Photo 179195/M. Grant

Meeting on 31 January for the first time in its history at the level of Heads of State and Government, the Security Council asked for UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to make recommendations on ways to strengthen and make more efficient the UN capacity for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, within the UN Charter's framework and provisions.

The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to the Charter's collective security system to deal with threats to peace and reverse acts of aggression.

The body's action came in the form of a joint statement read out by Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom as Council President, following statements by the Secretary-General and all Council members.

Attended by 13 Heads of State or Government and two Foreign Ministers of the Council's 15 members, the day-long meeting was convened at the initiative of the United Kingdom, in its capacity as Council President for January.

The Foreign Ministers—of Hungary and of Zimbabwe—attended the meeting as personal emissaries of their respective Prime Minister and President.

Speakers variously characterized the meeting as "historic", "timely", "extraordinary", "unique" and "unprecedented". The Council, in its joint statement, said there were "new favourable international circumstances" under which it had begun to fulfil more effectively its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The meeting was taking place at "a time of momentous change", Council members stated. The ending of the cold war had raised hopes for "a safer, more equitable and more humane world". Rapid progress had been made in many regions of the world towards democracy and responsive forms of government, as well as towards achieving Charter purposes.

The joint statement said the Secretary-General's recommendations on how to strengthen UN capacity for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping could cover the UN role in identifying "potential crises and areas of instability", as well as the contribution to be made by regional organizations, in accordance with Chapter

VIII of the Charter in helping the Council's work. They could also cover the need for adequate resources, both material and financial.

It also stated that the Secretary-General might draw on lessons learned in recent UN peace-keeping missions in suggesting more effective Secretariat planning and operations. He could also consider how greater use might be made of his good offices and of his other functions under the Charter.

Council members pledged their commitment to international law and the Charter. All disputes between States, they said, should be peacefully resolved in accordance with Charter provisions. They affirmed their determination to build on the initiative of their meeting in order to secure positive advances in promoting international peace and security.

They agreed that the Secretary-General had a crucial role to play and noted with satisfaction his intention to strengthen and improve the functioning of the UN. They undertook to work closely with him "in fulfilment of their shared objectives, including a more efficient and effective" UN system.

The world now had the best chance of achieving international peace and security since the UN was founded, it was agreed. Council members undertook to work in close cooperation with other Member States in their own efforts to achieve that, as well as to address urgently all other problems, in particular those of economic and social development, requiring the collective response of the international community. They recognized that peace and prosperity were indivisible, and that lasting peace and stability required effective international cooperation for the eradication of poverty and "the promotion of a better life for all in larger freedom".

Specific goals

Council members welcomed the role the UN had been able to play under the Charter in progress towards settling long-standing regional disputes and said they would work for further progress towards their resolution.

"Deep concern" was expressed over "acts of international terrorism", and the need for the international community to deal effectively with all such acts was emphasized.

Council members recalled that in 1991, under the UN's authority, the international community had succeeded in enabling Kuwait to regain its sovereignty and territorial integrity, which it had lost as a result of Iraqi aggression. Council resolutions remained "essential to the restoration of peace and stability in the region" and must be fully implemented, they asserted. At the same time, they expressed concern at the humanitarian situation of Iraq's "innocent civilian population".

The completion of the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa would constitute a major contribution to Charter purposes and positive trends, including the encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Council also supported the Middle East peace process, facilitated by the Russian Federation and the United States, and hoped that it would be brought to a successful conclusion on the basis of Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

Peace-keeping

The valuable contribution being made by UN peace-keeping forces in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe was applauded. It was noted that UN peace-keeping tasks had increased and broadened considerably in recent years. Election monitoring, human rights verification and refugee repatriation had been integral to Council efforts to maintain international peace and security.

Change, however welcome, had brought "new risks for stability and security", the Council went on. Acute problems had resulted from "changes to State structures", it stated, adding that it would encourage all efforts to help achieve peace, stability and cooperation during those changes.

UN Photo 179190/E. Debebe

World leaders arriving at Headquarters for the 31 January summit.

The absence of war and military conflicts among States, it was stressed, did not in itself ensure international peace and security. Non-military sources of instability in economic, social, humanitarian and ecological fields had become threats to peace and security. The UN membership as a whole, working through appropriate bodies, should give the highest priority to solutions.

Arms control

Council members were committed to enhanced UN effectiveness in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Progress in those areas could make a crucial contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

All Member States must prevent the proliferation "in all its aspects" of all weapons of mass destruction; avoid "excessive and destabilizing accumulations and transfers of arms"; and resolve peacefully any problems disrupting the maintenance of regional and global stability. The importance of early ratification and implementation of all arms control arrangements, "especially the START and CFE Treaties", was emphasized.

Council members committed themselves to working to prevent the spread of technology related to the research for or production of such weapons and to take appropriate action to that end.

They supported continuing efforts to reach agreement by the end of 1992 on a universal convention, including a verification regime, to prohibit chemical weapons. On conventional armaments, they noted the creation of a UN register of arms transfers as a first step, recognizing as well the importance of all States providing all information in that regard as called for by the General Assembly.

UN Photo/179253/M. Tzovaras

The meeting was held, many said, at a time of "momentous change".

New challenge

In addressing the historic meeting, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said: "Now that the cold war has come to an end, we must work to avoid the outbreak or resurgence of new conflicts. The explosion of nationalities, which is pushing countries with many ethnic groups towards division, is a new challenge to peace and security."

The UN would have to adopt "a new strategy to respond to the irredentist claims of ethnic and cultural communities or their calls for autonomy", he went on. Account must be taken of "the abundant supply of arms, the aggravation of economic inequalities between various communities and the flow of refugees". He favoured periodic summit-level meetings of the Council to take stock of the state of the world.

There had hardly been a stage more critical in modern history, he said. "The revolution that is sweeping large parts of the world derives its momentum and authenticity not from any outdated or recycled ideology, but from the primal need of peoples for freedom, for justice, for solidarity and for recognition of their identities."

Democratization at the national level dictated a corresponding process at the global level, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated. At both levels, it aimed at the rule of law. For global society, it meant the democratization of international relations and the participation of all States in developing new norms of international life.

'Hard cutting edge'

Prime Minister Major told the press that, with a new Secretary-General and with Russia taking her seat in the Council, the time was ripe for the Council to meet at the highest level. To have around the same table for the first time in history the Heads of State or Government of the five permanent Security Council members symbolized "the transformation from confrontation to cooperation" in the Organization's work.

The meeting, he said, was a celebration of the fact that the Charter "has once again become the handbook of those whose job it is to make the peace and keep the peace". Its most substantive achievement was that Heads of Government of countries ''whose arsenals could between them destroy the world'' had met as colleagues and partners ''in a common enterprise to make the world a safer place''.

The joint statement, he added, was written ''in the polite language of diplomacy, but it contains a hard cutting edge that can be used against those who breach their obligations''.

United for change

In opening the meeting as Council President, Mr. Major said Council members were united by their commitment to ''strengthen the wider community to which we belong, to reinforce collective security and to maintain international peace and security''. UN Member States had ''divided and reformed themselves'', thus presenting ''immense opportunities'', but carrying also new risks.

''The world now has the best chance for peace, security and development since the founding of the United Nations'', he concluded.

In addressing the Council later as United Kingdom Prime Minister, Mr. Major said the Council must exploit the Charter's ''unrealized potential'' and should be more active in crisis prevention. The Secretary-General should take the initiative boldly to draw potential conflict to the Council's attention. In future, the Council must be prepared to act before tension became conflict.

French offer

President François Mitterrand of France said his country was ready to make available to the Secretary-General ''a 1,000-man contingent for peace-keeping operations, at any time, on 48-hours notice''. Such deployments would involve activity by the Military Staff Committee, as provided for in the Charter. Council members should provide the Secretary-General with information on international security and mandate him to maintain regular contacts with regional organizations.

He recommended the establishment of regional funds for the conversion of military research and development to civilian production. States were in a position to decrease military budgets for the benefit of development. North-South confrontation should not be allowed to replace East-West confrontation.

President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation said the time had come to reduce considerably the presence of means of destruction and to consider creating a global defence system for the world community. Russia was ready to participate in building and putting in place ''a pan-European collective security system''. It regarded the United States and the West ''not as mere partners but rather as allies''. The Council was called upon to ''underscore the civilized world's collective responsibility for the protection of human rights and freedoms''.

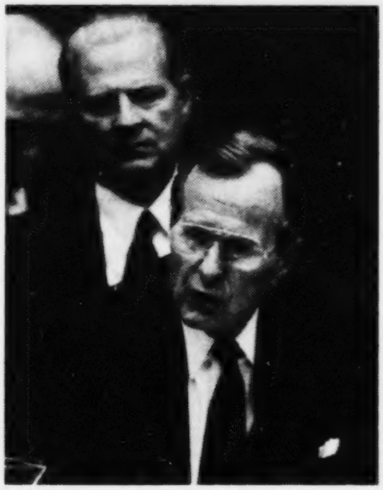
The Council needed a special rapid-response mechanism to ensure peace and stability. Russia was prepared to play a practical role in UN peace-keeping operations and contribute to their logistical support.

UN Photo 179211/M. Tzovaras

President Mitterrand

Exciting opportunity

President George Bush of the United States said the Council must advance the ''momentous movement'' towards democracy and freedom, and expand the circle of nations committed to human rights and the rule of law. ''Democracy; human rights; the rule of law—these are the building blocks of peace and freedom.'' Human dignity and the inalienable rights of man were universal. In Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, the UN must stand with those who sought greater freedom and democracy.



UN Photo 179219/J. Isaac

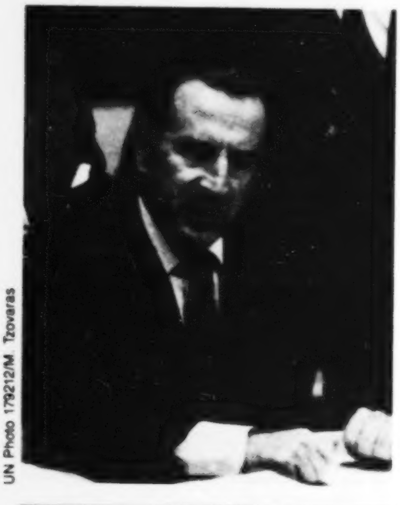
President Bush

''For perhaps the first time since that hopeful moment in San Francisco, we can look at our Charter as a living, breathing document. Yes, after so many years it may still be in its infancy, requiring the careful and vigilant nurturing of its parents, but . . . it is alive and well. Our mission is to make it strong and sturdy through increased dedication and cooperation, and I know that we are up to the challenge.''

Prime Minister Li Peng of China said no country should ''seek hegemony or practise power politics''. That principle should be observed universally in international relations. It was ''neither appropriate nor workable to demand that all countries measure up to the human rights criteria or models of one country or a small number of countries". China opposed interference in the internal affairs of other countries using the human rights issue as an excuse.

A new international order that would be "stable, rational, just and conducive to world peace and development" should be established, on the basis of the principles of "mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence".

President Rodrigo Borja-Cevallos of Ecuador said the Council meeting symbolized the fact that a new stage had begun in the history of mankind. It was "the turning of a page of history". He added: "We are far from having completely won the battle for peace. There still persist aggressive intentions, inferiority complexes that lead to violence, and misanthropy in the minds of certain political leaders. Racial and religious fanaticism, senseless nationalism and xenophobia also constitute threats to the harmonious coexistence of peoples."


UN Photo 179212/M. Tzovaras

President Borja-Cevallos

King Hassan II of Morocco said Charter provisions concerning collective security could not become operational unless all countries fully respected international law and unless the principle of equality among States was made a reality. To maintain world peace and achieve the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and mediation must be given "pride of place", and all UN mechanisms and Charter provisions must be employed. The Secretary-General must be given all means of preventive diplomacy to prevent the degeneration of disputes into armed conflicts.

President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela said the right of veto had been "an extraordinary power". The circumstances on which it was based had to a great extent been "superseded by history". It was highly useful in ensuring the survival of the Organization which, without that power, might perhaps have met the same fate as the League of Nations. Now that those risks were gone, the UN must restore the basic principle underlying its validity: that of equality of rights and obligations. The Council reflected political realities as they existed at the end of the Second World War and not current realities.

Trust must be earned

Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky of Austria said: "If our ideas are truly to bear fruit, we must act on behalf of as well as in the interest of all States. We must act in an even-handed, impartial manner, and we must also be perceived as doing so. If we truly want to turn over a new page in the book of this Organization today, then we must also be aware that the realization of our hopes depends on the trust of all the world's States and peoples in our impartiality and in our goodwill. This trust we must earn—over and over again. Today is only a beginning."

Prime Minister Wilfried Martens of Belgium said international regional organizations should be involved systematically in the Council's actions. It was essential that the Council and the Secretary-General take full account of the importance of universal observance of human rights in international peace-keeping and security issues. They should act accordingly, with the full weight of their authority. States rights were "subservient" to human rights. The Council should deal with serious cases of human rights violations at an early stage and "support any action taken elsewhere" to end "unacceptable situations that could pose a direct threat to international peace and security".

Consensus

Prime Minister Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga of Cape Verde said the Council, in addressing aggression and illegal occupation, must be even-handed. Whenever a selective approach was taken, it damaged the Council's credibility and substantially weakened its moral authority. Equally damaging to its credibility was what could be perceived to be selective implementation of its resolutions. If the Council was to have the credibility it deserved, it became highly advisable that it secure the implementation of all its resolutions.

Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao of India said it was impossible to think of a UN "functioning usefully or harmoniously while humankind continues to be riddled with ever-increasing disparities and while the world's natural resources—land, water and air—which are really humanity's common heritage, are getting fast depleted by thoughtless acts of over-exploitation and environmental degradation".

At every step, the interpretation of the Charter, as well as the Council's actions, must flow from the

UN Photo 179242/M. Grant

Prime Minister Miyazawa

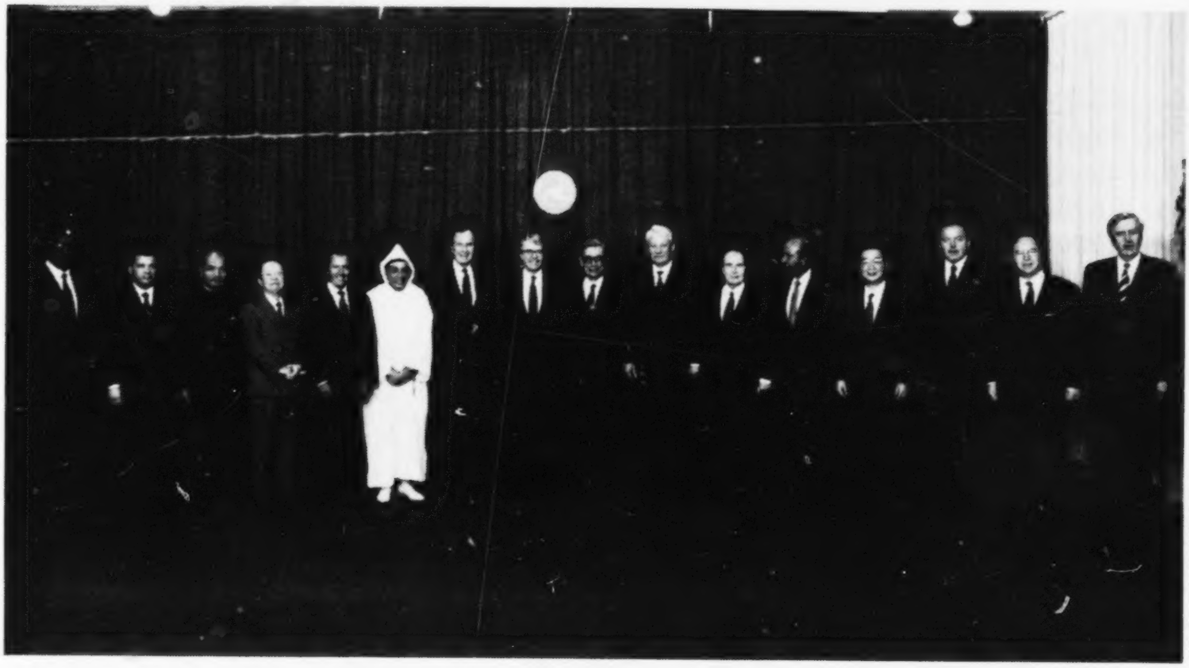
collective will of the international community and not from the views or predilections of a few. A general consensus must always prevail. What was right and just must become transparent. Council members should insist on that consensus, "scrupulously avoiding the temptation to dictate for quick results".

Promising future

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan said 1992 marked a point of departure towards a promising future for the UN. All countries must join together to construct a new peace order. Ways should be considered to adjust the Council's functions, composition and other aspects "so as to make it more reflective of the realities of the new era". There was a need to strengthen the UN's functions in the area of conflict prevention. The Secretary-General should be given sufficient information concerning tensions that could escalate into international conflicts.

Géza Jeszenszky, Foreign Minister and Personal Emissary of the Prime Minister of Hungary, said Council decisions regarding the military arsenal of a UN Member State having committed aggression were a precedent deserving unreserved support. The limitation of the armaments and the number of troops of an aggressor State or, for that matter, of an aggressor army out of political control, as well as their disarmament under an international verification system, should be a new and important dimension of the Council's activities.

Nathan Shamuyarira, Foreign Minister and Personal Emissary of the President of Zimbabwe, said future collective enforcement operations must be fully accountable to the Council and should be truly representative. That could be achieved by strengthening Article 46 of the Charter, which gives an important role to the Military Staff Committee, whose membership could not remain limited to only a few. Non-permanent members should also participate in all Committee work. That would ensure that collective enforcement actions were not dominated by a single group of countries.



UN Photo 179202/M. Grant

The official portrait: 13 Heads of State or Government, two Foreign Ministers.

Security Council approves 'largest, most complex' peace-keeping operation in UN history

Transition plan for Cambodia will involve 22,000 personnel

AP/Wide World Photos

Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia *(second from left)*, arriving in Phnom Penh on 16 March. He is greeted by Son Sen *(second from right)*, and accompanied by UN guards.

The Security Council on 28 February authorized the establishment of a $1.9-billion peace-keeping operation in Cambodia involving more than 22,000 personnel to oversee the country's transition to a new administration after multi-party elections. Council President Thomas R. Pickering of the United States characterized the operation as the "largest, and certainly one of the most important and complex, United Nations peace-keeping activities ever to be undertaken".

In unanimously adopting resolution 745 (1992), the Council decided to establish the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) for a period not exceeding 18 months. Elections, it specified, must be held by May 1993 at the latest.

UNTAC's mandate includes aspects relating to human rights, the organization and conduct of free and fair general elections, military arrangements, civil administration, maintenance of law and order, repatriation and resettlement of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons, and rehabilitation of essential Cambodian infrastructures during the transitional period.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that UNTAC had "a delicate and difficult mission": to end two decades of war, destruction and suffering, create conditions for a lasting peace and lead Cambodians to free and democratic elections.

The implementation plan translated into operational terms the "multifaceted, and in some respects unprecedented" mandate of UNTAC. He looked forward to the earliest possible deployment of UNTAC and the holding of elections by late April or early May 1993, "in other words, before the rainy season".

To restore peace

"This operation offers us an historic opportunity to restore peace to Cambodia and to contribute to the dawning of a new era in South-

East Asia and in international relations", the Secretary-General said. "In the final analysis, the fate of this exciting venture will depend on our collective determination to make it succeed."

UNTAC's deployment officially began on 15 March with the arrival in Phnom Penh of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi and the first contingent of the UNTAC military component.

Mr. Akashi stated that the parties to the Cambodian conflict were facing "a historic challenge" to put an end to "two decades of war, destruction and intense suffering", create conditions for a lasting peace and enable Cambodians to determine their destiny through free and fair elections. UNTAC's role was to assist the Cambodian parties to meet that challenge. By 1 April, more than 2,700 UNTAC military personnel had been deployed in Cambodia.

The Secretary-General was asked to deploy, as rapidly as possible, UNTAC staff which would include some 15,900 military personnel, 3,600 civilian police monitors and 750 international civilian administrators. An additional 1,400 civilians would assist in elections, along with an estimated 56,000 Cambodians. The military component is expected to be in place by June 1992.

Refugee repatriation began on 30 March

Repatriation of Cambodian refugees—estimated at 375,000—began on 30 March. UNTAC officials hoped that convoys could continue to leave camps in Thailand at a rate of two to three per week in April, with a short break for the Cambodian New Year.

On 29 March, 31 prisoners of war and civilian detainees were released by Cambodian authorities in a ceremony presided over by Prince Sihanouk, with Mr. Akashi's participation. An UNTAC spokesman reported that some 642 prisoners of war and civilian detainees so far had been released under the direction of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Mr. Akashi.

The World Food Programme on 18 March announced it would provide $330,000 in emergency food aid to Cambodian refugees in Viet Nam. On 22 January, donor nations pledged some $6.7 million for the UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO).

Seek cost-effectiveness

The Council urged that the operation—the most expensive to be undertaken by the UN—be carried out in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

The Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia was called upon to fulfil its special responsibilities, as set out in the Paris Agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict signed by the Cambodian parties on 23 October 1991. Under the Agreements, the SNC is "the unique legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the transitional period, the sovereignty, independence and unity of Cambodia are enshrined".

(The SNC, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, is composed of the Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh and the three parties which fought against it. It has delegated "all powers" to the UN to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreements which foresaw creation of a new Cambodian government within three months of elections.)

The Council further called on all the parties to comply scrupulously with the Agreements, cooperate fully with UNTAC and ensure the safety and security of all UN personnel.

The Cambodian parties were strongly urged to agree to the complete demobilization of their military forces prior to the end of the registration process for the elections, as well as to the destruction of weapons and ammunition deposited into UNTAC custody "in excess of those, if any, which may be deemed necessary by UNTAC for the maintenance of civil order and national defence, or which may be required by the new Cambodian Government''.

The Secretary-General was to report to the Council by 1 June, and subsequently in September 1992, and January and April 1993, on the progress of the operation and on tasks still to be performed, particularly regarding the most effective and efficient use of resources.

AP/Wide World Photos

UNTAC Military Commander Lieut. Gen. John M. Sanderson of Australia meets the press in Phnom Penh.

UNTAC plan

The Secretary-General's plan *(S/23613 and Add. 1)* gave UNTAC a structure comprising distinct components covering human rights, elections, military arrangements, civil administration, police monitoring, repatriation of refugees and displaced persons, and assistance in Cambodia's reconstruction during the transitional period.

UNTAC would be headed by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, who would maintain an ongoing dialogue with the SNC—the focal point of the UN relationship in Cambodia—regarding UNTAC's activities in implementing its mandate.

Lieutenant General John M. Sanderson of Australia was named Commander of UNTAC's military component.

Components

Human rights: A human rights office established at headquarters would be the central policy-making and coordinating body. The number of human rights officers required might be modest, since all UNTAC staff would be charged with carrying out human rights functions as an integral part of their primary duties. No staff devoted exclusively to human rights was foreseen at the provincial or lower levels.

Electoral: The Special Representative, assisted by a chief electoral officer, would have the task of organizing and conducting the elections. An Electoral Advisory Committee would ensure prevention and control of election irregularities. Civic education, training and computer elements would be based in Phnom Penh. There would be 21 provincial-level offices overseeing the work of 126 international electoral staff.

Nearly 200 district offices were foreseen, manned by 400 district electoral supervisors who would supervise the work of 800 registration and 8,000 polling teams. Another 1,000 international polling supervisors would be seconded from Governments in April 1993.

Approximately 4.3 million of the estimated 8.7 million Cambodians would be eligible to vote in the election. UNTAC would establish a legal framework for the electoral process, including a code of conduct.

Voter registration was to commence in October and proceed for three months. Voting would be for political parties and not for individuals.

Military: The main functions of the military component would include: verification of withdrawal and non-return of all categories of foreign forces, their weapons and equipment; supervision of the cease-fire and related measures, including regroupment, cantonment, disarming and demobilization; weapons control, including monitoring the cessation of outside military assistance, locating and confiscating caches of weapons and military supplies throughout Cambodia, and storing of arms and equipment of the cantoned and demobilized military forces; and assisting with mine-clearance programmes, including training, and mine-awareness programmes.

Civil administration: This component was to ''ensure a neutral political environment conducive to free and fair general elections''. Offices would be established to deal with areas where direct control was to be exercised to ensure strict neutrality—one for areas that might require a lesser degree of scrutiny, one for training and one for complaints and investigation.

Twenty-one provincial offices would be established at provincial and municipal centres, paralleling the existing structures in the country. Some 200 subprovincial offices would operate mostly in the areas of public security (civil police) and information.

Police: There would be a total of about 3,600 UNTAC civilian police monitors, who would supervise and control the local civil police, as well as coordinate their activities to ensure that law and order were maintained effectively and impartially, and that human rights were fully protected. This component would include a policy and management unit at headquarters, 21 units at the provincial level and 200 district-level units.

Repatriation: Repatriation and resettlement efforts would be spearheaded by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

There were more than 360,000 potential returnees, more than 90 per cent of whom were under the age of 45 and almost half under 15. Two thirds of the population had lived in camps along the Thai border for over 10 years. Of the total population, 90 per cent were expected to elect to return to Cambodia under UN auspices, with the rest returning spontaneously.

A Director for Rehabilitation in Cambodia was to be appointed.

Among the component's objectives were:

- Repatriation of refugees and displaced persons within a nine-month period;
- Identification and provision of agricultural and settlement land, installation assistance and food for an average of one year for up to 360,000 returnees;
- Provision of installation assistance and food for up to 12 months for up to 30,000 "spontaneous" returnees; and
- Provision of limited reintegration assistance for returnees and upgrading of services in returnee-concentrated areas through quick-impact projects.

Rehabilitation: Particular attention in the rehabilitation phase would be given to food security, health, housing, training, education, transport network and restoration of Cambodia's existing basic infrastructure and public utilities.

Urgent needs would include: humanitarian needs in food, health, housing and other essential needs of all Cambodians, particularly the disadvantaged, the handicapped, and women and children; resettlement needs, comprising essential agricultural inputs, improved access, drinking water supplies, health and education facilities, vocational training and food security; and essential restoration, maintenance and support of basic infrastructure, institutions, utilities and other essential services.

UNICEF Photo

Given the magnitude of its mandate and the need for efficiency, all UNTAC components would be computerized.

The Secretary-General said that if UNTAC was to discharge its responsibilities effectively and with complete impartiality, it must have the full support of the Security Council, the Cambodian parties and all other parties concerned; it must enjoy full freedom of movement and communications; and the necessary financial resources must be provided by Member States in full and in a timely manner.

Cooperation 'indispensable'

In debate, France said the Security Council had "initiated the most important and complete operation ever undertaken by the United Nations in the maintenance of peace". UNTAC should be given adequate financial resources and must have the full cooperation of all the parties concerned, above all of the Cambodians as a whole.

The United Kingdom said UNTAC was a key to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreements. Its goal was to permit Cambodians to exercise their right to self-determination and to elect, freely and in peace, a democratic government. No external force, however well-meaning and objective, could on its own bring peace, prosperity and democracy to Cambodia.

China said: "The settlement of the Cambodian question reflects the trend of the times and the desire of the people, and is, therefore, irreversible." The international community hoped to see an early return of "an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Cambodia to the world family''.

The Russian Federation said the operation's success would be determined by ''how durable and lasting the process of national reconciliation and agreement'' in Cambodia would be and by ''how harmoniously the seeds of respect for democracy and human rights sown there will sprout''.

The United States said: ''The United Nations is now poised to begin an enterprise of extraordinary size, scope and expense. Our experience in Cambodia will likely help shape for years to come perceptions of the United Nations as an effective instrument for addressing regional conflict and of the viability of its principle of collective security. We do not underestimate this challenge, but instead resolve to meet it with determination and imagination.''

On 16 March, Special Representative Akashi, accompanied by SNC President Sihanouk, reviewed outside the Royal Palace the 850-strong Indonesian battalion—the first UNTAC contingent to arrive in Phnom Penh—as well as members of the Australian, French and Thai contingents, and military liaison officers from other countries who were already deployed in Cambodia.

Problems: malaria, mines

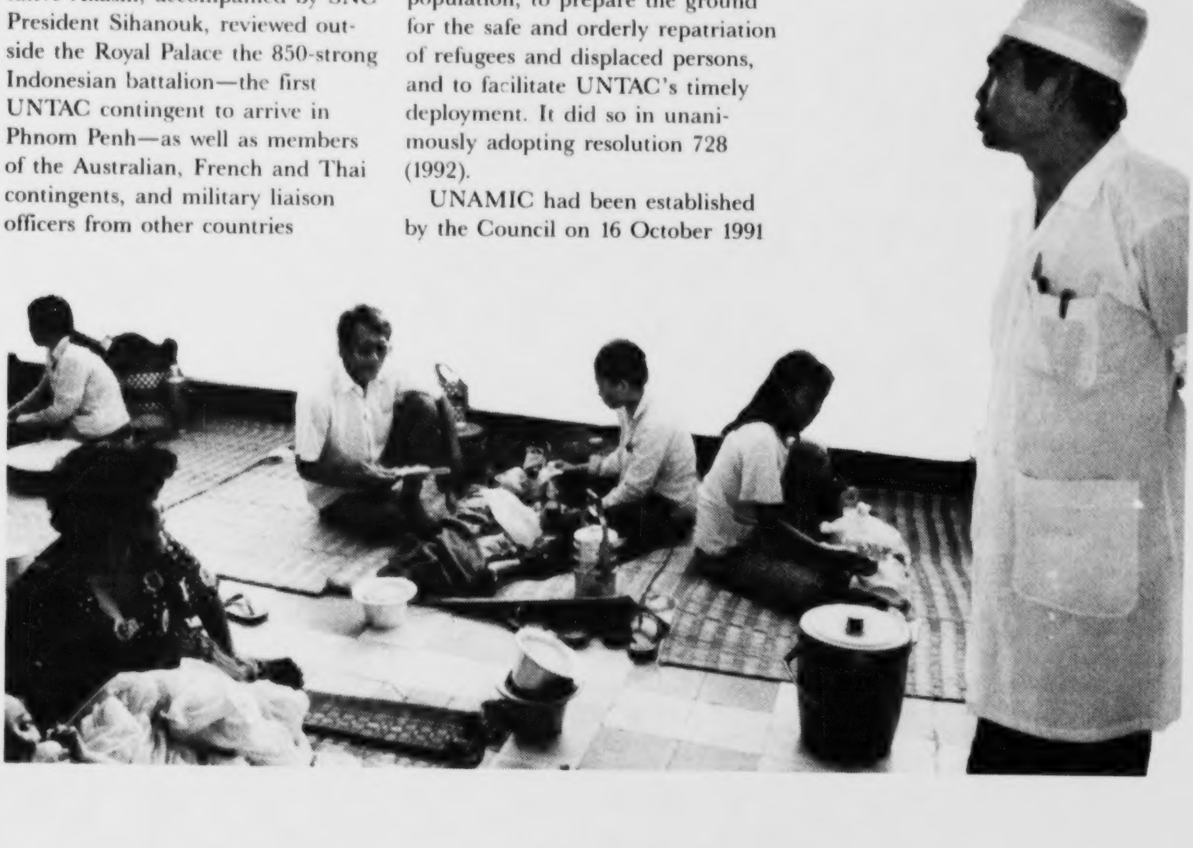
On 18 March, the World Health Organization reported that a drug-resistant form of malaria was emerging in Cambodia. UNTAC members have been instructed to use insect repellents, wear long-sleeved clothes and sleep under bed-nets impregnated with insecticides. In infested areas, antibiotics were to be used.

The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) was absorbed by UNTAC upon its creation.

On 8 January, the Council had called for a de-mining programme and training in mine clearance in Cambodia in an effort to reduce the threat posed to the civilian population, to prepare the ground for the safe and orderly repatriation of refugees and displaced persons, and to facilitate UNTAC's timely deployment. It did so in unanimously adopting resolution 728 (1992).

UNAMIC had been established by the Council on 16 October 1991 to assist in maintaining the cease-fire, facilitate communications between the military headquarters of the four Cambodian parties, train civilians on how to avoid injury from mines or booby traps, and ensure liaison between the Secretary-General and the SNC. It officially began operations on 9 November 1991.

On 31 March, a UN official said Mr. Akashi, on the Secretary-General's behalf, had repeatedly taken up the issue of cease-fire violations. Meetings were held with military representatives of the various factions involved. The Secretary-General hoped the parties would abide by the cease-fire, so that the UN could successfully pursue its mandated tasks.



Janet Gardner

Security Council establishes Force to handle Yugoslav crisis

Second largest peace-keeping operation in UN history

The Security Council on 21 February established a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to create the conditions of peace and security required for the negotiation of an overall settlement of the Yugoslav crisis. With its members totalling more than 14,000, the Force will be the second largest peace-keeping operation in UN history, next to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) *(see page 10).*

In unanimously adopting resolution 743 (1992), the Council decided that UNPROFOR would be established for an initial period of 12 months.

UN flag raised in Sarajevo at the opening of UNPROFOR headquarters on 26 March.

AP/Wide World Photos

The Secretary-General was asked to ensure the Force's earliest possible deployment, as well as develop a budget that would maximize the contribution of the Yugoslav parties to offsetting its costs and secure an efficient and cost-effective operation. (By 24 April, 8,332 had been deployed.)

All parties and others concerned were urged to comply strictly with the cease-fire arrangements signed in Geneva on 23 November 1991 and in Sarajevo on 2 January, and to cooperate fully and unconditionally in the implementation of the peace-keeping plan. The plan, set out in the Secretary-General's report *(S/23280)* of 11 December 1991, was approved by the Council in resolution 724 (1991) of 15 December.

All concerned were to take measures to ensure the safety of personnel sent by the UN and of members of the European Community Monitoring Mission.

The Yugoslav parties were called upon to cooperate fully with the Conference on Yugoslavia, established by the European Community, in reaching a political settlement consistent with the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Council reaffirmed that the UN peace-keeping operation was in no way intended to prejudge the terms of a political settlement.

States were asked to provide appropriate support to UNPROFOR, in particular to permit and facilitate the transit of its personnel and equipment.

A threat to peace

Prior to its adoption, Council President Thomas R. Pickering of the United States said the resolution reflected the unanimity of the Council's response to the situation in Yugoslavia, including its determination that it constituted a threat to international peace and security.

The Council approved the Secretary-General's 15 February report *(S/23592)*, in which he recommended the establishment and deployment of a peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia.

The Force would consist of nearly 13,340 military, 530 police and 519 civilian personnel. Its estimated cost—$634 million for the first year—should be borne by Member States, the Secretary-General recommended.

UNPROFOR headquarters would be in Sarajevo, with sub-offices in Belgrade and Zagreb, and a logistics base in Banja Luka. It would be deployed in three UN protected areas (UNPAs) divided into four sectors: sector E (Eastern Slavonia, including areas known as Baranja and Western Srem); sector N (the northern part of the Krajina UNPA); sector S (the southern part of the Krajina UNPA); and sector W (Western Slavonia). Military observers would be deployed in certain parts of Bosnia-Hercegovina adjacent to Croatia.

UNPROFOR would be under UN command, vested in the Secretary-General under the Council's authority. The overall command would be exercised by the Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar of India. UNPROFOR's military contingents are from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

Major-General Philippe Morillon was named Deputy Force Commander; Cedric Thornberry is Director of Civil Affairs, and Kjell Johansen is Commander of the Civilian Police.

Components

Under the plan, the military component would consist of 12 enlarged infantry battalions (10,400 ranks), headquarters, logistics and other support elements (2,840) and 100 military observers.

A Police Commissioner, appointed by the Secretary-General, would command the police component, and personnel would be provided by Governments.

The civilian component, largely UN staff members, would perform a range of political, legal, information and administrative functions. The Director of Civil Affairs would establish in each sector a civil affairs office that would coordinate with the corresponding military commander. Local administration and the maintenance of public order would be among the responsibilities of the civil affairs officers.

UNPROFOR would also require an air unit consisting of 4 fixed-wing aircraft and 26 helicopters.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the complexities and dangers of the Yugoslav situation required that a UN force succeed in consolidating the cease-fire and thus facilitate the negotiation of an overall political settlement. Therefore, a working cease-fire and a clear and unconditional acceptance by all concerned of the peace-keeping plan were needed.

He had concluded that the danger that a UN peace-keeping operation would fail because of the parties' lack of cooperation was less grievous than the danger that delay in its dispatch would lead to a breakdown of the cease-fire and to a new conflagration in Yugoslavia.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali assumed that the Yugoslav parties were ready to engage seriously in the difficult task of negotiating an overall settlement in the Conference on Yugoslavia. The Force would succeed only if there was confidence that it would remain in Yugoslavia until a negotiated settlement was achieved. Fears that it might be precipitately withdrawn before the underlying problems had been peacefully resolved would have a most unsettling effect in the UNPAs.

The role of the UN peace-keeping operation as regards local administration and the maintenance of public order would be:

- to identify, as soon as it was deployed, existing arrangements for local administration and the maintenance of public order in each of the *opstine* (community) in the UNPAs, together with any existing regional structures;
- to confirm that the composition of existing police forces reflected the national composition of the population which lived in the area concerned before recent hostilities;

UN Photo 179380/M. Tzovaras

On 21 February, the Security Council voted to establish UNPROFOR. Shown above Security Council President Thomas Pickering of the United States *(right)*, with Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali *(at left)*.

UN Photo 179296/M. Tzovaras

The Council voting on resolution 740 on 7 February.

and, in cases where that was not so, to arrange, in cooperation with existing local authorities, any change that might be necessary;

- to monitor the work of local police forces; and
- to use its good offices to ensure that any changes to the status quo as regards other aspects of local administration were consistent with the spirit of the plan and posed no threat to public order.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said those arrangements would be of an interim nature, without prejudice to an overall settlement or to the principle that Yugoslavia's internal boundaries could not be changed by force or without the consent of the parties concerned.

The success of the operation would depend on the readiness of all concerned to exercise restraint and to refrain from actions that could disturb public order in the UNPAs. The UN Force would use its good offices to resolve any difficulties that might arise in that regard, he said.

Displaced persons

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that the return of displaced persons to their homes would be a major undertaking. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees would implement a scheme that would permit those displaced persons who wished to return to their homes as soon as possible, to do so after UNPROFOR's deployment. All the Force's elements would do everything possible to help in that critically important endeavour.

On 27 March, High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata deplored reports of serious and ongoing human rights violations on both sides of the Yugoslav conflict.

Every effort was being made to facilitate the voluntary return of the nearly 1 million people forced to flee from the civil strife, she said. Civilians—many of them women, children and elderly—had been compelled to abandon their homes and seek security in other areas, some by force, others by intimidation or threat. All parties had been asked to refrain from any action causing new displacement of the civilian population.

On 24 March, Lt.-Gen. Nambiar issued an urgent appeal to authorities in Belgrade and Zagreb to end the cease-fire violations which had intensified in frequency and seriousness in some areas. Those violations "needlessly prolonged" the suffering of the civilian population and could delay UNPROFOR's full deployment, he said.

Resolution 740

The Security Council, in unanimously adopting resolution 740 (1992) on 7 February, had asked the Secretary-General to expedite his preparations for a UN peacekeeping operation, so as to be prepared to deploy it immediately following a Council decision. The Council expressed concern that the plan for such an operation had not yet been fully and unconditionally accepted by all in Yugoslavia on whose cooperation its success depended.

States were called upon to cooperate fully with the Committee, established by resolution 724 (1991) to monitor the arms embargo against Yugoslavia, including reporting of any information brought to their attention concerning violations of the embargo.

Also on 7 February, that Committee appealed to States to forward to it any information they might have or might come across relating to any violations or suspected violations of the mandatory arms embargo against Yugoslavia under resolution 713 (1991) of 25 September.

The Council reviewed a 4 February report *(S/23513)* of the Secretary-General, in which he recommended that the 50 military liaison officers deployed in January to help consolidate the cease-fire in Yugoslavia be increased to 75. The Council subsequently approved the increase.

The Secretary-General stated that Croatian President Franjo Tudjman had told Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs Marrack Goulding in Zagreb on 28 January that he could not accept any formula that did not provide for the immediate restoration of the full authority of the Republic of Croatia in the UNPAs, thus retracting the full and unconditional acceptance of the plan that had been conveyed on 1 January to the Secretary-

General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance. The retraction would, if maintained, remove one of the plan's two central elements and invalidate the basis on which the other parties had accepted it.

Those two central elements were: withdrawal of the Yugoslav National Army (JNA) from all of Croatia and demilitarization of UNPAs; and the continuing functioning, on an interim basis, of the existing local authorities and police, under UN supervision, pending the achievement of an overall political solution to the Yugoslav crisis.

The Secretary-General said another opposition to the UN plan was expressed by Milan Babic, leader of the Serbian community in the third proposed UNPA, when he met with Mr. Goulding in Knin on 27 January. Mr. Babic declared his inability, and that of his colleagues in the "Government" of the self-proclaimed "Republic of Serbian Krajina", to accept the plan and its reference to UNPAs as being "in Croatia". That was unacceptable, he said, because it prejudged the political solution.

That same view was expressed to Mr. Goulding by Goran Hadzic, leader of the Serbian community in the region of Eastern Slavonia—another proposed UNPA—when they met in Belgrade on 27 January. Mr. Goulding had told both leaders that the Secretary-General would cover that point in his report and explore the possibility of reflecting that view in a future Council resolution. Mr. Hadzic had been reassured by the proposal and had confirmed his support for the UN plan, although subsequent press reports suggested that he might have revised his position.

Mr. Babic had stated that the recognition of the Government of Croatia by certain countries and the establishment of the "Republic of Serbian Krajina" required, in accordance with the "doctrine of changed circumstances", a revision of the UN plan.

Among positive and encouraging elements mentioned in the report was the fact that the cease-fire was generally holding. Mr. Boutros-Ghali called for quick action to forestall any possibility it would unravel. He said he had been disturbed to hear of allegations that the arms embargo was not being observed. "In the circumstances", he stated, "it is all the more essential that the arms embargo be scrupulously respected".

'Entirely complementary'

On 28 January, the Security Council held informal consultations to consider the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Yugoslavia. The report brought the Council up to date on the establishment of a military liaison office and on the work of Mr. Goulding, who was in Yugoslavia working to clear the way for the deployment of a UN peace-keeping force.

Following discussions, Council President Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom said members had expressed support for the Secretary-General's approach to the force's deployment. Council members felt the deployment could make "a real contribution to a peaceful solution in Yugoslavia", so long as the negotiating process in the Conference on Yugoslavia was "maintained and pursued". He added that UN and European Community activity on the Yugoslavia issue were "entirely complementary".

In the previous week, the Secretary-General had met separately with the Serbian Member of the Federal Yugoslavian Presidency and Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation with the UN on peace-keeping matters, the Foreign Minister of Portugal, representing the European Community, and the Prime Minister of Croatia, all of whom had expressed their support for the deployment of a UN peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

UN Photo 177321/M. Grant

Yugoslavia remains in crisis.
***Above,* street scene in Belgrade.**

Security Council imposes conditional air, arms embargo against Libya

AP/Wide World Photos

The tragedies of Pan Am Flight 103 at Lockerbie, Scotland and Union de transports aeriens (UTA) Flight 722 in Niger's Tenere Desert *(see above)* are still the subject of controversy at the UN.

The Security Council on 31 March decided to impose an air and arms embargo against Libya effective 15 April 1992, unless that country provided a "full and effective response" to requests by France, the United Kingdom and the United States to cooperate fully in establishing responsibility for the bombings of Pan Am Flight 103 and Union de transports aériens (UTA) Flight 772.

There were 270 persons from some 30 countries killed when the Pan American plane exploded over Scotland on 21 December 1988; another 160 died in the UTA explosion in Niger on 19 September 1989.

The Council acted by adopting resolution 748 (1992) by a vote of 10 to none, with five abstentions (China, Cape Verde, India, Morocco and Zimbabwe).

The text was sponsored by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Council also decided that the Libyan Government "must commit itself definitively to cease all forms of terrorist action and all assistance to terrorist groups and that it must promptly, by concrete actions, demonstrate its renunciation of terrorism".

All Member States, including non-members and international organizations, were asked to deny permission to any aircraft to take off from, land in or overfly their territory, if it was going to or coming from Libya, unless the particular flight had been approved for significant humanitarian needs. Also prohibited was the supply of any aircraft or aircraft components to Libya, as well as the provision of engineering and maintenance servicing of Libyan aircraft or components.

The embargo aims to prevent Libya from receiving arms and related material of all types, including through the sale or transfer of weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment.

States were called on to significantly reduce the number and level of staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts, and to deny entry to or expel Libyan nationals, due to their involvement in "terrorist activities".

The Council decided to establish a Committee to monitor implementation of the embargo. The Committee would consider and decide on any application by States for approval of flights on grounds of significant humanitarian needs.

Member States were asked to report to the Secretary-General by 15 May on measures instituted by them to meet their obligations under the resolution. The Council decided that it would review the sanctions every 120 days or sooner should the situation so require, in light of Libya's compliance with requests made by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

On 21 January, the Council had adopted unanimously resolution 731 (1992), condemning the destruction of the two civilian aircraft and the resultant loss of lives. It had strongly deplored the fact that the Libyan Government had not responded to requests for cooperation in establishing responsibility for those "terrorist acts". Libya was urged "immediately to provide a full and effective response to those requests so as to contribute to the elimination of international terrorism".

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had been asked to seek the Libyan Government's cooperation to provide such a response and States, individually and collectively, had been urged to encourage the Government to respond fully and effectively to those requests.

On 2 April, the Secretary-General decided to send Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky as his Special Envoy to Libya to seek the Government's cooperation in responding to those requests.

UN Photo 179117/M. Tzovaras

Libya's Ali Ahmed Elhouderi meets the press at UN Headquarters.

Readiness to cooperate

At its 31 March meeting, the Council reviewed two reports by the Secretary-General.

In his 11 February report *(S/23574)*, the Secretary-General said he had sent Under-Secretary-General Vasiliy Safronchuk as his Special Envoy to Libya on 25 January. Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, the Libyan Leader of the First of September Revolution, had indicated to Mr. Safronchuk his readiness to cooperate with the UN, stating that legal proceedings had been started against the two Libyan nationals.

Colonel Qaddafi also suggested that the Secretary-General invite judges from France, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as representatives of the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to observe a trial in the event that the Libyan judges decided to try the two nationals.

Libya on 11 February accepted the French calls for Libya to: produce all the material evidence in its possession and to facilitate access to all documents that might be useful for establishing the truth; help assemble witnesses; and authorize requests for judicial information.

Libya also said it wanted a mechanism created for the implementation of resolution 731.

On 3 March, the Secretary-General reported *(S/23672)* that France, the United Kingdom and the United States considered Libya's statement a step forward only if it was supported by action. They wanted to be informed of the mechanism by which Libyan authorities would hand over the records and documentation requested and whatever else might be requested by the French examining magistrate, and of where and when the Libyan authorities intended to do so.

With regard to the question of compensation, the three States sought to obtain assurances from Libya with regard to its responsibility.

During meetings in Libya on 24 and 27 February, Colonel Qaddafi told Mr. Safronchuk that constitutional obstructions prevented Libya from handing over Libyan citizens abroad for trial in the absence of an extradition treaty.

Libya might consider France as a possible venue for a trial of the Libyan citizens. However, France had not requested that any suspects be handed over to it for trial. Although Libyan authorities could not forcibly hand over the suspects for trial in a foreign country, the suspects were free to hand themselves over voluntarily and the Libyan Government had no intention of preventing them from doing so. The possibility of handing over the suspects for trial to the authorities of third countries might be considered.

Libya was prepared, the Secretary-General said, to cooperate in every way possible to end "terrorist activities" and sever its relations with all groups and organizations that targetted innocent civilians.

It was premature to discuss the question of compensation, which could result only from a civil court decision. However, Libya would guarantee the payment of compensation awarded as a result of responsibility of its suspected citizens if they were unable to pay it themselves.

An abuse?

In Council debate on 31 March, Libya said resolution 748 was "an example of the abuse of the Security Council by some permanent members through the imposition of resolutions that not only run counter to international legitimacy but also are in flagrant violation of that legitimacy". The Council "has bent to the requests of three States and moved directly to the implementation of Chapter VII of the Charter".

Libya wanted completely to uncover all the facts relating to the two "criminal acts". The impasse in finding a solution had been created not by Libya's lack of cooperation but by the other parties, which had rejected all initiatives designed to bring about a fair and neutral investigation.

The United States said that at issue was whether the international community was prepared to back up its own words with action and demonstrate that it would protect itself against a State that engaged in "terrorism". The means chosen in the resolution were appropriate; sanctions were "measured, precise and limited". They were a multilateral, non-violent and peaceful response to violent and brutal acts. They were "tailored to fit the offence—Libya's wanton and criminal destruction of civilian aviation—and designed to penalize the Government of Libya, not its neighbours or any other State".

The international comunity was sending signals that it would not tolerate threats to international peace and security, and was prepared to take concerted political action against the continuing defiance of international obligations and norms of behaviour represented by Libya's "State-supported terrorism".

The United Kingdom said the resolution was "a proportionate and carefully measured response" to the threat posed by the Libyan Government's actions in support of "terrorism" and its failure to respond positively to resolution 731. Such a threat was not "fanciful"; it was a reality. And it was not only the three sponsors of the resolution that were liable to suffer from it. The Council had acted in full conformity with its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

France said the sanctions were "balanced and appropriate, selective and fitting". They applied to areas that could be used to support "international terrorism". They were not aimed at the Libyan people, who were not responsible for the actions of their leaders. Proof of that was the fact that, mindful of the importance of the religious pilgrimage to Mecca, the Council would provide the necessary authorizations for pilgrims wishing to go to Mecca to be able to do so.

The Russian Federation said it categorically condemned "international terrorism". The Council had no alternative but to adopt another resolution providing for enforcement action to ensure compliance with resolution 731.

China, Cape Verde, India, Morocco and Zimbabwe—all of which abstained—indicated they did not favour terrorist acts, but preferred an investigation and negotiated solution. Sanctions should be a last resort.

Libya challenges United Kingdom and United States on extradition requests

Libya on 3 March instituted at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) separate proceedings against the United Kingdom and the United States, based on the alleged involvement of two Libyan nationals in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 on 21 December 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The crash resulted in 270 deaths.

Charges have been brought against the two men by the Lord Advocate of Scotland and by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Libya contends that the United Kingdom and the United States, rejecting Libya's efforts "to resolve the matter within the framework of international law", including the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, are pressuring Libya into surrendering the men for trial.

Libya had also asked the ICJ President to call upon the parties to "enable any Order the Court may make on Libya's request for provisional measures to have its appropriate effects".

The Court announced on 30 March that public hearings held by it on Libya's requests for provisional measures, which opened on 26 March, had been concluded on 28 March. It would begin to consider its decision, the announcement added.

Arms embargo for Somalia imposed, UN team tries for cease-fire

UN Photo 179316/M Tzovaras

On 12 February, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali convened a meeting on Somalia at Headquarters with representatives of the Organization of African Unity, the Arab League and the Islamic Conference.

A 15-member international "technical team" arrived on 23 March in Mogadiscio, the capital of war-torn Somalia, to prepare a plan for a possible UN mechanism to monitor the cease-fire agreed to by the two warring Somali factions and to develop a high-priority plan to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia.

The cease-fire was agreed on 3 March, after two months of intense negotiations involving the UN and the imposition by the Security Council of an arms embargo on Somalia.

The cease-fire, which ended four months of fighting for control of Mogadiscio, was signed by Somalia's Interim President, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, and General Mohamed Farah Aidid, Chairman of the United Somali Congress (USC)—leaders of the two factions of the same movement who were, for the most part, the main parties to the fighting in Mogadiscio. It followed four days of negotiations between a high-level international group and the two factions.

The agreement was preceded by the signing of pledges in New York on 14 February, by which the two leaders committed themselves to an immediate cessation of hostilities and to the maintenance of a cease-fire in Mogadiscio.

The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Somalia, Under-Secretary-General James O. C. Jonah, reported that more than 25,000 civilians had been killed or wounded since the resumption of the civil war in November 1991.

The technical team, headed by Robert Gallagher of Canada, consisted of: three government representatives, including the team leader; political, peace-keeping and humanitarian staff from the UN; one representative each from the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and a representative from a non-governmental organization. Apart from the Somali capital, the team would also visit the cities of Berbera and Kismayo.

The monitoring mechanism would provide for a civilian to be named as the Secretary-General's Special Representative, assisted by senior officials from the three regional and intergovernmental organizations.

Together, they would constitute a Joint Monitoring Commission, which would be assisted by UN military observers, with about 20 observers deployed on each side of the cease-fire line. In addition, a contingent of UN civilian police would facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance in and around Mogadiscio.

Strong Council support

On 17 March, the Security Council had expressed strong support for the Secretary-General's decision to dispatch the technical team. In unanimously adopting resolution 746 (1992), the Council called for the team's urgent dispatch. Also, Somali factions had been urged to honour their commitment under the cease-fire agreement and cooperate in facilitating delivery of humanitarian assistance.

All parties, movements and factions in Somalia, particularly in Mogadiscio, had been called upon to respect the security and safety of the technical team and other international personnel, and to guarantee their freedom of movement.

The Secretary-General had been asked to use all resources at his disposal to address urgently the critical needs of the affected Somali population. He had also been called upon to continue consultations towards convening a conference for national reconciliation and unity.

On 20 January, Somalia had requested *(S/23445)* that the Council consider the "deteriorating human dilemma prevailing in Somalia", stating that the civil war situation was "worsening day by day".

Arms embargo

On 23 January, in unanimously adopting resolution 733 (1992), the Council decided that States should, for establishing peace and stability in Somalia, immediately implement a general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to that country until it decided otherwise.

It also urged all parties to the conflict to agree to a cease-fire and to promote the process of reconciliation and political settlement in Somalia. Increased humanitarian assistance was asked, with a coordinator appointed to oversee the effective delivery of such assistance to the affected Somali population.

Parties were urged to ensure the safety of personnel sent to provide humanitarian assistance, and to respect international law regarding protection of civilian populations.

States were called upon to refrain from any action that might contribute to increasing tension and impeding or delaying a peaceful and negotiated outcome to the conflict, which would permit all Somalis to decide upon and construct their future in peace. States, as well as international organizations, were called upon to contribute to the efforts of humanitarian assistance to the Somali population.

'Special challenge'

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed that Somalia presented a special challenge, as the extraordinarily complex, tragic situation had so far eluded conventional solutions. Innovative methods commensurate with the humanitarian and political situation at hand needed to be explored.

According to the Secretary-General's report *(S/23693)*, the conflict in Somalia arose because General Aidid did not recognize Mr. Mohamed as Interim President. The USC's Central Committee, with a majority supporting Mr. Mohamed, had ousted General Aidid as Chairman, he had been told.

A cease-fire in Mogadiscio would not alone resolve the Somali problem which included further complicating factors, such as the existence of armed elements not under the control of either of the two leaders, the personal animosity between the leaders, which might account for the ferocity of the fighting and the difficulty in reaching accommodation, and the breakdown of law and order in Mogadiscio.

Despite indications from nations that they were complying with the arms embargo, both Somali factions claimed that the other side was receiving arms from some countries in the region.

Consultations continue

Consultations were held in New York between delegations of the opposing factions, during which they signed pledges of commitment on 14 February.

Consultations were conducted in early March in Mogadiscio by a joint delegation headed by Personal Envoy Jonah. In addition to helping factions to conclude a cease-fire agreement and discussing arrangements for UN involvement, the delegation also wanted to hear the views of all Somali factions regarding the convening of a conference of national reconciliation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated that because of the intolerable security situation, it had not been possible to provide food supplies to Mogadiscio since December 1991. The prospect of famine deaths was high in much of the country.

He called on the Council to emphasize to the factions that they must refrain from pursuing a military victory and must seek to resolve their conflict in a peaceful way, either through accommodation or by elections within the USC to determine its leadership.

Refugees

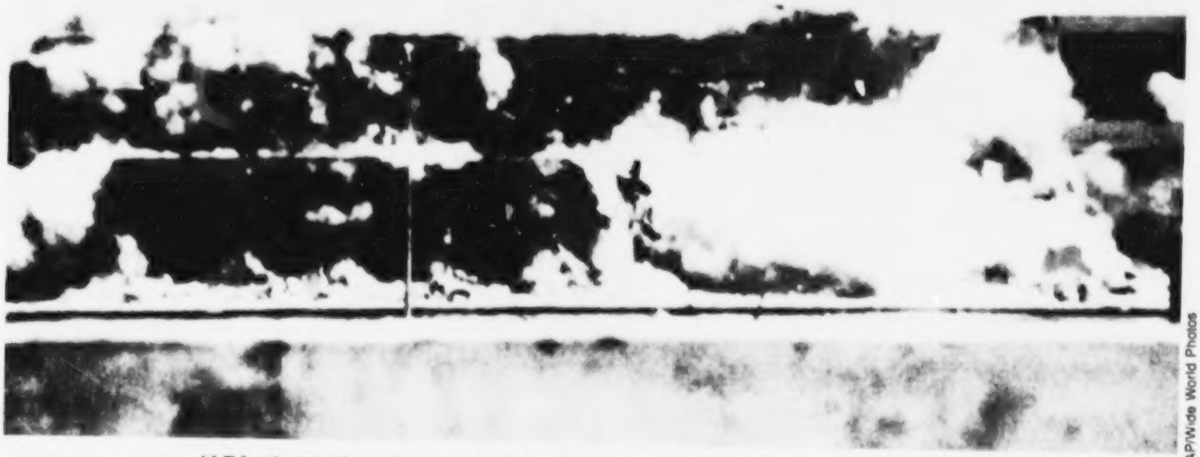
On 4 February, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said Somali refugees were streaming into Kenya at a rate of about 700 per day.

It was reported that some 75,000 Somalis—mainly old men, women and children—had already crossed the border.

Dr. Pumpalova

The Secretary-General strongly deplored the killing on 5 January of Dr. Marta Pumpalova, a UNICEF consultant in the town of Bossaso in northern Somalia. The 51-year-old pediatrician was killed instantly in a hail of bullets fired by three men who walked up to the roadside cafe table at which she was sitting with four other people, according to a UNICEF spokesman.

IE5-April 24)--NUCLEAR FACILITY DESTROYED--This photo, released by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) durir
news conference in Vienna, Friday, shows the destruction of an Iraqi nuclear facility in Al-Atheer during an inspection visit
om April 7 to April 15. The IAEA, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, watched the destruction of the facility which was
stroyed in accordance with cease-fire agreements which ended the Gulf War. (AP Photo) BW (sf/ws61300/ho)92.
AP LEAFDESK



AP/Wide World Photos

IAEA photo of explosion as released by the Associated Press on 24 April.

IAEA destroys Iraq's nuclear-weapons facilities at Al Atheer

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 25 March announced its decision to destroy "relevant facilities and equipment", consisting of about a dozen buildings at Iraq's Al Atheer Centre which, the Agency says, has the objective of designing and producing a nuclear device. Iraq maintains the facility has no nuclear connection. The demolition took place on 13 April, under the supervision of the eleventh IAEA inspection team.

The destruction of Al Atheer was part of the continuing disarmament process in Iraq, pursuant to the terms of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April, which established a cease-fire in the Gulf war and set out conditions essential to the restoration of peace and security in the region.

Iraq requested a meeting in Vienna with IAEA officials from 20 to 24 March to clarify the role and functions of Al Atheer before the Agency took a final decision regarding the facility.

"In spite of lengthy and detailed explanations given by the Iraqi technical team on the civil nature and functions of Al Atheer, IAEA remains convinced that the technical core of this facility was designed for special processes needed for nuclear weapons development and manufacturing, including uranium metallurgy", the IAEA stated.

An IAEA official said buildings at the Centre which would be spared, such as the cafeteria, offices and the garage, had nothing to do with weaponization.

Iraq must comply

On 12 March, the Security Council called on Iraq to take immmediately "appropriate actions" to comply fully and unconditionally with its obligations under relevant Council resolutions.

The call was contained in a statement read by Council President Diego Arria of Venezuela, who said the Council hoped that the goodwill expressed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz would be matched by deeds.

The Council was concerned with what was seen as Iraq's reluctance to comply with decisions on

UN Photo 179574/M Grant

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz *(second from left)* and other Iraqi officials at Council meeting on 11 March.

disclosure and monitoring of the ongoing disarmament process.

Mr. Aziz on 11 March had told the Council that Iraq was ready to enter into serious talks to work out the details of its compliance with the resolutions.

All proscribed weapons had been destroyed, he said. Iraq no longer possessed any weapons or other systems prohibited by resolution 687. Equipment used in producing such items had either been frozen or turned to civilian use. Iraq was also ready to publish in Iraqi newspapers the names of missing persons and provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with access to detention camps.

Iraq must comply

Also at the 11 March meeting, convened to consider Iraq's compliance with resolution 687 and subsequent relevant texts, Council President Arria in a statement said that, despite Iraq's statements of unconditional acceptance of resolution 687, the Council had concluded that "Iraq has not fully complied with the obligations placed upon it by the Council".

He cited the declaration adopted by the Security Council at the 31 January summit meeting, which emphasized that Council resolutions remained "essential to the restoration of peace and stability in the region and must be fully implemented".

With regard to resolution 688 (1991) demanding that Iraq end the repression of its civilian population, Mr. Arria said the Council remained "deeply concerned at the grave human rights abuses" which Iraq continued to perpetrate against its population, in particular in the northern region, and in southern marshes and Shi'a centres.

The Council was also concerned at reported restrictions on the supplies of essential commodities, in particular food and fuel, imposed by the Iraqi Government on three northern governorates. Inasmuch as the repression of the population continued, the threat to international peace and security in the region remained, the Council President added.

Among Iraq's specific obligations were the return of Kuwaiti property; demarcation of the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait; the humanitarian situation of the Iraqi civilian population, including in the Kurdish populated areas; full cooperation with UN specialized agencies in monitoring and verifying its weapons programmes; and repatriation of Kuwaitis and third-country nationals in Iraq.

Grave concern

On 19 February, Council President for February, Thomas Pickering of the United States, said Iraq's failure to acknowledge its obligations under resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991), its rejection of the two plans for monitoring and verification, and its failure to provide the full, final and complete disclosure of its weapons capabilities constituted a continuing material breach of resolution 687.

A five-member Special Commission mission had visited Iraq from 27 to 30 January to discuss with Iraq the need for fuller compliance with Council resolutions.

In a 27 January statement, the Special Commission said Iraq's failure to provide the required information was a serious obstacle to implementing the long-term monitoring and verification of Iraq's obligations under relevant Council resolutions.

On 3 February, the mission returned to New York with detailed new information about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The team described its talks with Iraqi officials as "significant, detailed and useful", but said that many problems and misunderstandings could have been cleared up sooner and the work of the Commission speeded up if the information had been made available earlier.

On 5 February, the Council decided that the sanctions regime against Iraq should continue.

'Serious consequences'

On 28 February, the Security Council convened to consider the results of another special mission to Iraq (21-24 February), headed by Special Commission Executive Chairman Rolf Ekeus, to discuss at the highest level the need to secure Iraq's unconditional agreement to implement all relevant obligations under resolutions 687, 707 and 715.

Mr. Ekeus reported to the Council that he was not able to secure such unconditional agreement from the Government. Although welcoming Iraq's offer to consolidate prior information, he said that that would not constitute the full, final and complete disclosure called for by resolution 707, which would provide a complete understanding of all Iraq's prohibited weapons programmes.

Iraq told the mission that it had accepted only the principle of ongoing monitoring and verification but argued that this should be subject to considerations of sovereignty, territorial integrity, national security and non-infringement on Iraq's industrial capabilities.

The mission concluded that if unconditional agreement was not provided by Iraq, implementation could not be undertaken in a credible manner.

In a statement on the Council's behalf, President Pickering said Iraq must be aware of the serious consequences of continued material breaches of resolution 687. Council members, he said, fully supported the mission's findings.

They condemned Iraq's failure to provide the special mission with the disclosure, as required by resolution 707, of all aspects of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres, including launchers, and of all holdings of such weapons, their components and production facilities and locations, as well as all other nuclear programmes; and Iraq's failure to comply with the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification approved by resolution 715. Iraq's behaviour constituted a material breach of resolution 687, they said.

UN Photo 179567/M. Grant

Mr. Ekeus

Council members also deplored and condemned Iraq's failure to commence destruction of ballistic missile-related equipment designated for such destruction by the Special Commission.

They demanded that Iraq immediately implement all its obligations under resolution 687 and subsequent relevant resolutions. They required Iraq to communicate directly to the Council without further delay an authoritative and unconditional acknowledgement of its agreement to accept and implement those obligations, including specifically its compliance with the Special Commission's determination requiring the destruction of ballistic missile-related equipment.

On 19 March, Iraq had given to Chairman Ekeus an undertaking to destroy items associated with Iraq's ballistic missiles programmes identified for destruction by the Commission, as well as important new information on Iraq's ballistic missiles and chemical weapons capabilities. Iraq also stated it was willing to make the full, final and complete disclosure of its programmes that the Commission had been seeking. The Special Commission said the information disclosed was being assessed. Mr. Ekeus told reporters that the information was "good news".

Nuclear inspections

The ninth and tenth in a series of inspections of Iraq's nuclear capabilities took place from 12 to 15 January and from 2 to 13 February. Eight previous inspections were carried out between 14 May and 18 November 1991.

The IAEA said the main objective of the ninth inspection was to verify recent information received from Member States, particularly Germany, concerning Iraq's procurement of large quantities of stock materials and components required for the manufacture of gas centrifuges to produce enriched uranium.

Main items discussed with Iraq were: special aluminium alloy extrusions specifically for the manufacture of centrifuge vacuum housings; ferrite magnets and other components used in the stator of centrifuge motors; and special equipment needed to fix the stator components in place.

Iraq had acknowledged procurement of those materials, stating it had obtained 100 tons of special high-strength steel (maraging steel) for centrifuge rotors and rotor fittings, and several thousand aluminium forgings for vacuum housing flanges. Those raw materials and components had been destroyed or "rendered harmless" by melting or crushing before IAEA inspections began in 1991. The quantities involved would have sufficed for the manufacture of several thousand centrifuges.

The team was shown the melted stockpile and crushed powder from the ferrite magnets at a site south of Baghdad. Samples were taken for verification purposes. A rough estimate made on-site was consistent with the quantities procured.

Inspection experts said Iraq's centrifuge enrichment programme had not yet progressed to a point where a sizeable number of centrifuges could be produced, although, given time, they would have been successful.

On 21 January, Germany reported *(S/23449)* it was making every effort to prosecute illegal exports to Iraq and share the information it had gained with the Special Commission.

Tenth inspection

The tenth inspection team reported continuing signs of "better cooperation". Iraq said the shift in attitude from a defensive to a cooperative one was prompted by the fact that the extent of the Iraqi nuclear programme and its main objectives had by now been fully assessed. Iraq was anxious to turn the page, it said, to help implement the plan for future ongoing monitoring and verification and, in so doing, to remove an important obstacle to the lifting of sanctions.

The inspection focused on the SAAD-13 State Establishment in Salah Al-Din province, identified as the possible site of an underground nuclear reactor intended for significant plutonium production. However, no such facility was found.

Inspections at other sites also did not provide any evidence of activities relevant to Iraq's "clandestine nuclear programme".

Chemical inspections

The seventh in a series of inspections of Iraq's chemical capabilities took place from 27 January to 4 February. The first six had taken place between 9 June and 2 November 1991.

The 19-member team, which inspected 10 sites throughout Iraq, found no evidence of any items or activities relevant to resolution 687. It verified that all equipment at the Mosul sugar factory, identified previously as having originated from the Muthanna State Establishment, had been returned to Muthanna.

On 27 January, the team was confronted and stopped by demonstrators at their Baghdad hotel. While Iraqi police looked on, team members finally managed to force their way through the hostile crowd, one inspector reported. The Special Commission called the incident "a clear breach" by Iraq of its undertakings regarding immunities, privileges, safety and access of UN inspection teams. The UN subsequently addressed oral and written protests to Iraq.

On 31 March, the first chemical weapons destruction team, led by Chief Inspector Michel Desgranges, completed supervision of the destruction of 463 122-millimetre rockets. Comprised of 26 experts from seven countries, it was in Iraq from 21 February to 24 March. Destruction activities took place at Khamissiyah Storage Site, 400 kilometres south of Baghdad. The munitions destroyed included fully, partially and unfilled rockets. The chemical agent was sarin (a nerve agent).

Ballistic missiles

The seventh, eighth and ninth inspections of Iraq's ballistic missile capabilities were carried out from 9 to 17 December 1991, 21 to 29 February and 21 to 29 March, respectively. Six previous inspections took place between 30 June and 9 December 1991.

The seventh team inspected 14 undeclared sites, finding no documents, equipment or other material relevant to resolution 687.

The eighth mission was given the task of conducting inspections of designated sites and the destruction of equipment previously identified as being associated with Iraq's programme to produce ballistic missiles. However, Iraqi officials refused to destroy this equipment. The team also discovered undeclared equipment directly related to the production of long-range missiles. It oversaw the destruction of some of that equipment and completed successfully its cataloguing activities.

UN Photo 159070/H. Arvidsson

A UN inspector cataloguing materials used for solid propellant for ballistic missiles.

Boundary Commission meets

The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission on 5 March announced that its joint team from the national survey offices of New Zealand and Sweden had completed work in the border area.

No recommendations or decisions on the boundary had been made, the announcement asserted. The Commission was to meet in New York in April to review the results of the surveying and mapping, and address the boundary's actual demarcation.

The eighth team inspected seven sites throughout Iraq, of which four were declared sites and the remaining three were for short-notice inspections.

The team reported it was unable to fulfil its primary objective, which was the destruction of those items related to the ballistic missile programme notified to Iraq in advance of the visit.

At the three short-notice sites, the team found equipment related to the production of SCUD missile components and identified other "suspicious" items which required further investigation. The Chief Inspector demanded the destruction of 15 different groups of items which were directly related to the long-range missile production. Iraqi officials conducted the destruction of those newly-identified items, which was verified by the team.

A number of areas inaccessible to previous teams due to war damage were visited and items deemed to be prohibited were catalogued. A total of 96 newly-identified items were noted for further consideration.

The ninth team visited two sites where Iraq claimed that remains of destroyed SCUD-type missiles were buried. Initial excavation revealed some pieces of such missiles. Iraq also handed over plans for the destruction of equipment associated with its ballistic missiles programmes that it had failed to deliver to the eighth inspection team.

The team also witnessed the start of the destruction of Iraq's ballistic missiles production and repair facilities. It verified the complete destruction of some of the nine items that Iraq had refused to destroy during a previous inspection. The principal machinery destroyed was highly specialized mixer equipment used in the production of solid rocket propellant. Other items included machinery and electronic testing equipment.

The team examined the remains of a significant number of ballistic missiles that had been destroyed unilaterally by Iraq. Team members identified parts unique to each missile, as well as some missile guidance sets.

Oil sales talks

Talks between UN representatives and Iraqi authorities on the possible resumption of petroleum exports by Iraq were held in Vienna on 8 and 9 January, and from 26 to 28 March. No announcement about their outcome was made.

By resolution 706 (1991) adopted on 15 August, the Security Council had stipulated terms for the limited sale of Iraqi oil and oil products under strict conditions and close UN monitoring. For example, Iraq's oil could be sold for a six-month period, with full payment by the purchasers to be deposited into a UN-controlled escrow account. Funds would be allocated from that account to purchase essential foodstuffs and supplies, and to meet Iraq's financial obligations under previous Council resolutions. The sum to be produced by Iraq's limited oil exports could not exceed $1.6 billion.

Under resolution 712 (1991) of 19 September, the Council, confirming the $1.6-billion limit, approved a basic structure and measures for the sale of Iraqi oil.

On 19 March, Council members said they were "prepared to authorize the regime for the sale of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products" on that basis for a six-month period as soon as the Secretary-General indicated that Iraq was "prepared to proceed on a date certain with the export of petroleum and petroleum products in accordance with the scheme".

Work of Compensation Fund proceeds

The Security Council on 20 May 1991 had formally created the Compensation Fund to pay claims against Iraq arising from its invasion and occupation of Kuwait. The Council also established a Commission to administer the UN Compensation Fund. The Fund's creation was a condition upon which the lifting of the ban against import of commodities and products originating in Iraq was contingent under resolution 687.

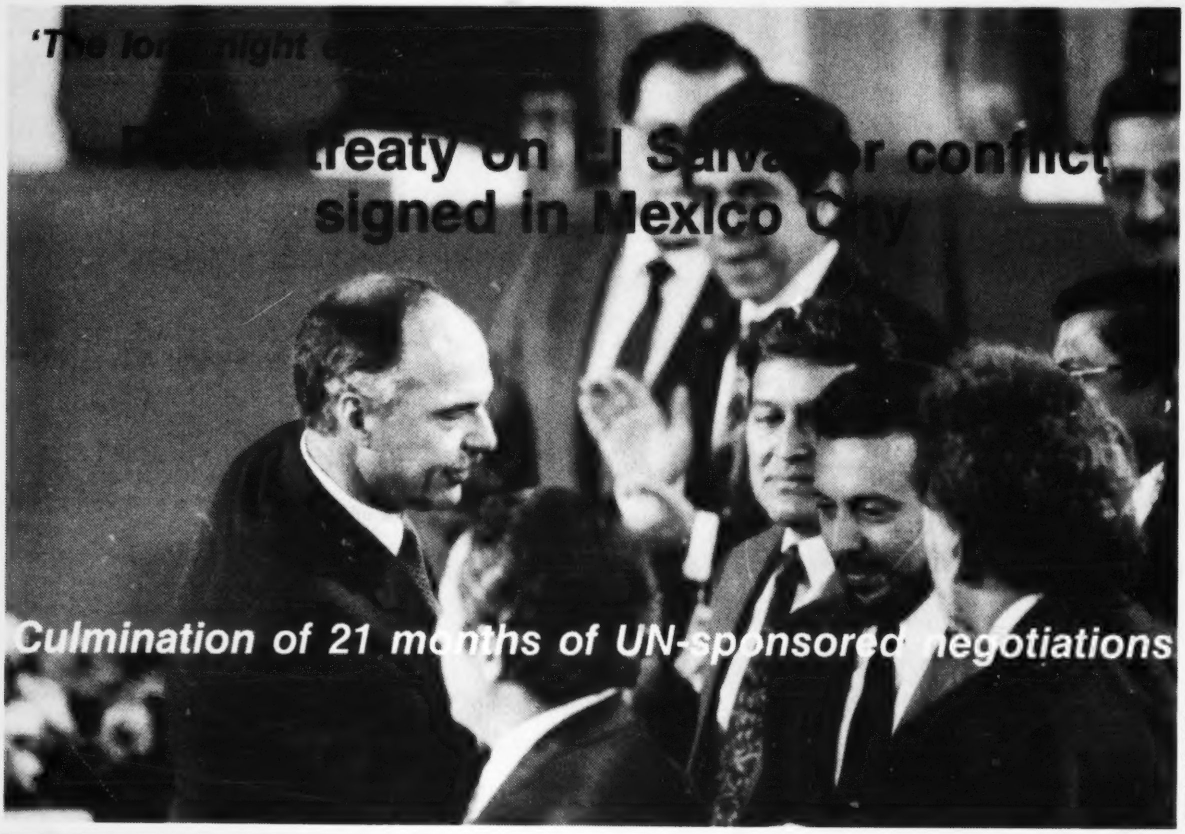
The Fund's Governing Council held its fourth session in two parts in January and March. It reached a consensus on the establishment of ceiling amounts for compensation for mental pain and anguish suffered by claimants. Ceilings were established per claimant and per family unit, encompassing different situations. It also approved the propositions and conclusions on compensation for business losses contained in one of its documents.

At a fifth session, also in March, the Council approved the first part of the provisional rules for claims procedure, as well as the final text of the "Criteria for additional categories of claims".

'The long night o [illegible]

Peace treaty on El Salvador conflict signed in Mexico City

Culmination of 21 months of UN-sponsored negotiations



AP/Wide World Photos

Salvadoran President Cristiani *(left)* shaking hands with FMLN commanders, just after signing ceremony on 16 January.

The Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) signed a comprehensive peace treaty in Mexico City on 16 January, formally ending a 12-year civil war that cost nearly 75,000 lives and resulted in more than a million refugees.

Both sides pledged a new era of cooperation, democracy and prosperity for El Salvador. The complex 94-page accord was finalized after 21 months of UN-sponsored negotiations.

"We understand that what begins to happen now in El Salvador is not the re-establishment of a peace that existed before, but the beginning of a real peace founded on a social consensus", President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador said at the end of a solemn and elaborate ceremony that left some participants in tears.

He added: "We can work together for the benefit of the peace El Salvador deserves. The war is relegated to the past." For the first time, President Cristiani shook hands with FMLN leaders.

"The agreements that we have signed contain the design of the new country we Salvadorans wish for, of the life that we Salvadorans want to live", said Schafik Jorge Handal, an FMLN commander. "Fulfilment of the agreements requires constant vigilance by the international community", he declared.

The signing ceremony was held in Mexico City's historic Chapultepec Castle, in the presence of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, nine Heads of State or Government and a number of foreign ministers from the region.

Under the treaty, a formal ceasefire was to begin on 1 February and continue for nine months under international supervision until the end of the military structure of the FMLN and the reintegration of its members, within a framework of full legality, into the civil, institutional and political life of the country. The Government also plans a drastic reduction in the size and political influence of its armed forces.

To address inequities

In return for FMLN's promise to lay down its arms, the Government has agreed to address the social and economic inequities that fostered the civil war. Proposed measures include Government purchase of land for peasants in zones dominated by the FMLN and creation of a new National Civil Police, and a social reform.

At the signing ceremony, the Secretary-General stated: "The long night of El Salvador is drawing to an end". The agreements would usher in "a new era for a deeply troubled country, ravaged by violence and suffering for over a decade". It was an occasion, he said, for joy and celebration, "as a torn nation faces the hopes of peace and the challenges of reconciliation and reconstruction".

He recalled that two years ago his predecessor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar had been asked to exercise his good offices to bring together the two parties. He characterized the peace accord as "the crowning achievement of a long and arduous journey". It had been "a difficult, painstaking, step-by-step process".

Revolution by negotiation

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed that the peace accord must be seen in conjunction with the Agreements reached in San José, Mexico City and New York, in July 1990, April 1991 and September 1991, respectively. Taken together and given their breadth and scope, those agreements constituted "a prescription for a revolution achieved by negotiation". A new and far better El Salvador would emerge from those agreements.

Participating in that endeavour, he went on, had been a "groundbreaking experience" for the UN, not only because the Organization had not traditionally played a role in that region, but also because of the nature of its involvement. While there was an "indubitable" international dimension to the armed conflict in El Salvador, it was "primarily and ultimately" an internal conflict, he said, not normally the kind of issue into which the UN was drawn. However, the UN, with its membership's support, had been invited to play an "innovative role in the resolution of a seemingly intractable conflict in a Member State".

The coming period was also one of innovation for the UN, he emphasized. He pointed out that when the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) had begun monitoring human rights, the Organization was "treading new ground".

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the presence at the ceremony of the leaders of the countries known as the "friends of the Secretary-General"—Colombia, Mexico, Spain, Venezuela—was indeed fitting. El Salvador must not be forgotten "now that peace is about to break out", he concluded.

No vanquished; only victors

On 25 February, the Secretary-General reported *(S/23642)* that the path towards national reconciliation and the establishment of a just and lasting peace had been opened up. The main FMLN leaders had returned to El Salvador under conditions of security guaranteed by the Government. The first stage of the separation of forces had been completed without incident.

There had also been other important developments, such as the establishment of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (COPAZ) and the designation of two of its commissions—the special commission to deal with the agrarian problem and the commission on the National Civil Police—and the adoption of the National Reconciliation Act, which provided for a broad amnesty with exceptions, however, concerning cases that would be brought to the attention of the Commission on the Truth.

On his arrival in San Salvador on 16 January, the Secretary-General said: "There are no vanquished and the only victors are the people of El Salvador". ONUSAL was entering a demanding new phase of its mandate. The UN, he added, would spare no effort to contribute to consolidate peace in El Salvador and in Central America as a whole.

Goulding visit

Following three days of talks with the El Salvador Government and FMLN leaders, Under-Secretary-General for peace-keeping operations Marrack Goulding said in San Salvador on 14 March that he was confident that "the conclusions which we have reached in a climate of cooperation and understanding will be implemented forthwith".

He said he had discussed with both sides how best to set in motion the implementation of the peace agreement and solve certain problems that had occurred in that connection.

On 19 March, the Secretary-General told a press conference in New York that he had sent Mr. Goulding as a special representative to El Salvador "to maintain the momentum in favour of the peaceful solution of the problem" in that country, where the UN's role was not limited to maintaining or keeping peace, but where it was moving to the construction of peace through development.

Widen ONUSAL mandate

In unanimously adopting resolution 729 (1992), the Security Council on 14 January decided to enlarge the mandate of ONUSAL in order to meet the operational needs arising from the implementation of the Mexico City Agreements. By approving the Secretary-General's report *(S/23401 and Add.1)* it agreed to the establishment of two new divisions—a military division to verify cease-fire arrangements and a police division to monitor the maintenance of public order pending the organization of a new national civil police.

The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN were asked to respect scrupulously and implement in good faith their commitments under the agreements, and to cooperate fully with ONUSAL. The Council also reaffirmed its support for the Secretary-General's continuing mission of good offices with regard to the Central American peace process.

Some 1,000 military and police personnel, as well as civilian staff, estimated to cost some $58.9 million through the end of October, were required. Other needs involved housing and offices, transport and air operations, communication and miscellaneous equipment, supplies and services.

The Secretary-General said the aim of the UN police monitoring would be to deter intimidation, reprisals or other civil rights violations, as well as to promote the impartial and non-discriminatory enforcement of laws and regulations in a manner that would encourage and promote national reconciliation.

As part of the overall peace agreement, two existing security bodies would be disbanded early in the process and a third would be phased out over a longer period at the same time that a new national civil police would be organized. He stated his intention to reduce the strength of the Police Division after 1 January 1993.

AP/Wide World Photos

FMLN leaders returning to El Salvador on a UN helicopter after peace accord was signed in Mexico in January.

ONUSAL's Military Division is to be composed of personnel from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela. It is under the command of Brigadier-General Victor Suanzes Pardo of Spain, previously chief of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA). During the informal cease-fire (16 to 31 January), the Division had received its first contingents, both from ONUCA and the contributing countries. Almost all of its 373 authorized observers were deployed at all verification points by 31 January. Verification activities began on 1 February—the official launch of the cease-fire.

The Police Division is commanded by Chief Homero Vaz Bresque of Uruguay. Ultimately, it is to comprise some 630 observers.

More than 5,000 police cadres are to be trained over a two-year period, with UNDP support. The funds will be raised through an appeal to the international community.

Terminate ONUCA mandate

On 16 January, in unanimously adopting resolution 730 (1992), the Security Council decided to terminate ONUCA's mandate effective 17 January.

Action was needed to enable the transfer of personnel and equipment from ONUCA to ONUSAL.

ONUCA—the first large-scale UN peace-keeping operation in the region—lasted for two years, two months and 10 days. It was established on 7 November 1989 in Council resolution 644 (1989). Five Central American Governments—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua—had requested its creation.

ONUCA's original mandate was to verify implementation of agreements to end outside assistance to insurgent groups in the region and prevent attacks against other States from territories of those countries. During its existence, ONUCA helped in the transition process following the Nicaraguan elections in February 1990, including demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance and monitoring of the cease-fire in that country.

Secretary-General welcomes 'positive results' of South African referendum

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 18 March welcomed the "positive results" of the 17 March referendum on democratic reform in South Africa, aimed ultimately at discarding the racially discriminatory system of apartheid, in place for nearly 45 years.

Cape Times
IT'S YES
Petrol price rise on cards

AP/Wide World Photos

The day after the referendum—President de Klerk welcomes the "yes" vote.

Only whites took part in the exercise. According to press reports, of the 2.8 million people who cast ballots, slightly more than 1.9 million—68.7 per cent—voted to give South African President F. W. de Klerk the mandate he had sought to negotiate an end to apartheid.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the results constituted "a major step forward" towards the eradication of apartheid and the creation of a new, non-racial society in South Africa, based on respect for human rights. "These prospects will constitute a new factor for peace and development throughout Africa", he affirmed.

On 20 March, addressing a meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Secretary-General said the referendum's results had "clearly demonstrated that the overwhelming majority of white South Africans support the negotiation process for a non-racial democracy". It underlined the commitment of South Africans as a whole to reform and change through peaceful means, he said. It provided a fresh and compelling impetus to the negotiations taking place within the framework of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), launched in December 1991.

Closing the book

President de Klerk said the referendum had "closed the book" on the ideology of apartheid. He added: "Today is the real birthday" of the new South Africa that he had promised when he was sworn in two and a half years ago.

In that period, Mr. de Klerk has legalized anti-apartheid groups, freed political prisoners, obtained the repeal of laws that underpinned apartheid, and initiated negotiations with black groups on ending the system of minority rule.

"Today will be written up in our history as one of the most fundamental turning-point days in the history of South Africa", he stated. "The massive positive result sends out a powerful message to all South Africans that those who have the power in terms of the present imperfect constitution really mean it when they say, 'We want to share power'."

The President also said he was convinced that the majority of those who had voted no and the majority of "the leadership on the right" were "responsible people". He urged them to pursue their concerns by joining the negotiations he had opened with black leaders. He said he would push for power sharing "on the basis of no suppression, no domination, effective protection of minorities and all the other effective checks and balances".

Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), said blacks were greatly relieved by the referendum's approval, which he called "a source of encouragement to all in South Africa who think in terms of the total population". He now expected faster progress towards majority rule. Blacks, about 70 per cent of the country's people, remain excluded from the electoral process.

ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa also praised the results, saying: "This is a resounding victory for the negotiation process and for South Africa as a whole. White South Africans have at last started forgoing the racist policies of the past.''

In a statement, the ANC said that the referendum vote had supported the process of negotiations, rather than Mr. de Klerk and his National Party. ''It must be absolutely the last occasion on which South Africa is subjected to the indignity of a racial or ethnic referendum'', it said.

Special Committee Chairman Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria said on 18 March that the referendum vote was ''an unequivocal expression of support for the continuation of the current process of negotiations'' aimed at establishing a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

The Committee expressed concern over the referendum's ''lack of universal pluralism'' since it involved only about 15 per cent of South Africa's total population. It hoped that it would be the last referendum to be conducted by ''a segment of the South African population on the destiny of the entire nation''. Ongoing negotiations should include all democratic forces, he concluded. Also, Pretoria must immediately take decisive steps to bring the persisting political violence to an end.

A new society

On 20 March, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said the process of negotiated change under way in South Africa should lead in the near future to the emergence of a new society—a society in which all South Africans, irrespective of their race, could live together in harmony as equal citizens of a non-racial democracy.

Recalling that a preliminary agreement had been reached earlier in March regarding arrangements to oversee the initial phase of the transition process, he said that further progress in the negotiations should lead to transitional arrangements that would inspire general confidence in the country's administration and ''facilitate the establishment of the necessary mechanism for drafting a new constitution''.

UNAVEM II mandate enlarged to observe, verify Angolan elections

The Security Council on 24 March enlarged the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) to include observation and verification of free and fair multi-party elections planned for September 1992. In unanimously adopting resolution 747 (1992), the Council approved an operational plan for UN observation of the elections and enlargement of UNAVEM II.

On 30 May 1991, the Council had established a new mandate for UNAVEM, created in 1988 to oversee withdrawal of Cuban troops from that nation. UNAVEM II—as the new operation is called—was to carry out new verification tasks arising from the ''Peace Accords for Angola'' (Acordos de Paz para Angola) signed in Lisbon, Portugal, on 31 May 1991, until general elections in that country were completed.

Under these Accords, the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) committed themselves, among other things, to the creation of a multi-party democratic system and the holding of free, fair and internationally supervised elections.

In resolution 747, the Angolan authorities and parties were called upon to finalize political, legal, organizational and budgetary preparations for elections and make available as soon as possible all available resources for the electoral process. States were also encouraged to contribute voluntarily and UN bodies were asked to provide the assistance and support necessary to prepare for the elections.

The Angolan parties were urged to comply scrupulously with the Accords and with the agreed deadlines, and to proceed with the demobilization of troops, formation of a unified national armed force, effective operation of joint police monitoring units, extension of the central administration and other major tasks. A precise timetable was to be set for the electoral process.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola is Margaret Joan Anstee, also Chief of UNAVEM II. Ms. Anstee—former Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna—visited Angola from 17 to 20 February.

Tasks

To carry out the expanded responsibilities, an office of the Special Representative for Angola was to be established in Luanda to coordinate all UN activities related to the Angolan peace process. The Mission would include an Electoral Division to observe and verify the Angolan electoral process until its completion.

UNAVEM II would also verify electoral rolls; report on complaints, irregularities and interferences; and observe all activities related to voter registration, organization of poll, the electoral campaign, the poll itself and the counting, computation and announcement of results.

Three main phases of the electoral process were foreseen: voter registration (possibly April through August); the electoral campaign; and the poll itself (one or more days in September). UNAVEM observers, during all three phases, would monitor and evaluate the operations and impartiality of the electoral authorities at all levels.

Oil embargo

While the oil embargo against South Africa remained in force, it must be fully respected and implemented by all UN members, Anthony B. Nyakyi of the United Republic of Tanzania, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa, said on 14 January when he was re-elected at the Group's first meeting in 1992.

He stated that the Group had been disturbed by reports of visits by South African officials to oil-producing and other States, and by oil deals between South Africa and other countries. He appealed to States to prohibit such exchanges. States should consider adopting the Model Law on the Oil Embargo against South Africa or should at least consider incorporating its principles within their own legal systems.

Mr. Nyakyi observed that both Mr. Mandela and Clarence Makwetu, President of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, had emphasized that the oil embargo should be one of the last sanctions to be lifted, along with the arms embargo. Thus, the oil embargo should be lifted when a new constitution for a democratic and non-racial South Africa had been adopted.

"However, if there was progress on transitional arrangements, and the liberation movements believed that lifting the oil embargo would be conducive to peaceful progress towards ending apartheid, the Group would review the situation and recommend the appropriate action to be taken by the General Assembly", he said.

The Group also re-elected Nabeela Al-Mulla of Kuwait as Vice-Chairman and Rolf Fife of Norway as Rapporteur.

UN Photo 179332/J. P. Somme

At a 3 February ceremony in Paris, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) jointly awarded to South African President F. W. de Klerk and ANC President Nelson Mandela *(first and second from left)* its Felix Houphouet-Boigny Prize for Peace Research for their contribution to the "promotion, research, safeguarding or maintenance of peace". (Each received a cheque for 400,000 French francs, a gold medal and a UNESCO Peace Diploma.) At the podium is UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor.

Towards majority rule

South Africa's racial policies have been under discussion by the UN since 1946.

Apartheid—a State-imposed system of institutionalized racial discrimination and segregation—has been practised as an official policy by South Africa since 1948. Under it, black South Africans—the overwhelming majority of the country's people—are denied fundamental rights and liberties. They are not allowed to participate in political life and are subject to repressive laws and regulations.

Beginning in 1952, the UN has repeatedly appealed for an end to apartheid.

In September 1989, F. W. de Klerk was elected President. He accelerated a process of releasing imprisoned black leaders, including Nelson Mandela, legalized black African nationalist parties, including the ANC, and supported the repeal of laws which had segregated blacks from whites.

By October 1990, the rule by emergency decree, in effect since June 1986, was lifted. In June 1991, the Population Registration Act classifying people by race at birth was repealed. So were the Group Areas Act and two Land Acts, which reserved some neighbourhoods for whites and restricted black land ownership.

In September 1991, an accord was signed by Messrs. de Klerk, Mandela and other political leaders, pledging to end civil violence. In December 1991, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa met for the first time, and launched negotiations towards a new constitution extending political rights to all racial groups.

Western Sahara: Uncertain future

UN Photo 179346/M. Grant

Meeting in New York on 14 February on Western Sahara.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned that, if continuing problems and "persistent differences of interpretation" with regard to implementation of the settlement plan for Western Sahara could not be resolved by the end of May, "alternative courses of action" and possibly a new approach to the whole problem would have to be considered.

The plan calls for UN organization and supervision, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), of a referendum for self-determination of the Territory's people, who would choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

In a 28 February report *(S/23662)*, the Secretary-General stated that the referendum should have taken place in January 1992. However, it had not been possible to proceed in conformity with the original timetable, because of problems and differences of interpretation of the plan's implementation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali wanted a target date set—possibly the end of May—for resolving all outstanding issues that blocked the implementation.

The full cooperation of the two parties—Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO)—was essential if the UN was to play a meaningful role in facilitating a just and lasting solution of the problem, he said.

In accepting the proposals, the parties had "recognized, and placed their full trust in, the integrity and impartiality" of the UN in the settlement process. In that spirit, the Secretary-General appealed to the parties "to engage in every effort to cooperate" with the UN and enable it to play a full role in the search for mutually acceptable solutions. He hoped that the appointment of a new Special Representative would provide fresh impetus and move the process forward. He pledged his commitment to explore every possible avenue to achieve a just and definitive solution.

On 25 March, the Security Council reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's efforts and the efforts to be made by his new Special Representative for Western Sahara, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan of Pakistan, to accelerate the implementation of the settlement plan.

Appointed on 23 March, Mr. Yaqub-Khan replaced Johannes Manz of Switzerland who had resigned in December 1991.

Divergent views

Mr. Boutros-Ghali pointed out that in January and February he had had discussions with the King of Morocco and POLISARIO's Secretary-General. While both parties had reiterated to him their confidence in the UN, their commitment to the settlement plan and their willingness to restore the momentum of the peace process, they had "divergent views and different interpretations" of some of the plan's key elements. The Secretary-General had also been in contact with Algeria and OAU.

Fundamental differences persisted between the parties regarding the question of criteria for eligibility to vote in the referendum, the Secretary-General observed.

The absence of dialogue on substantive issues relating to the identification process had also been a severe handicap.

Census list prepared

The first stage of the identification process—preparation by the UN of a revised list of the 1974 Western Sahara census based on information provided by the two parties—had been completed, but publication of that list was not agreed on.

A computerized system had been developed to provide support services based on electronic data-processing for voter registration and the referendum process. Consultations had been held as to the role of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to returning refugees.

Call for an end to Afghanistan's 'human tragedy'

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 19 March called for an end to the "human tragedy" that had lasted for more than a decade in Afghanistan.

He said that the extent of the human suffering in that country was "horrendous". More than 1 million people had died, an estimated 2 million had been disabled, tens of thousands had been orphaned and widowed, over 5 million had become refugees and more than 2 million had been displaced internally in a country that had been "subjected to total devastation".

The Secretary-General stressed that the time was ripe to promote a comprehensive political settlement to end the protracted conflict. The UN, he said, was hopeful that it would be able to convene "an informal international conference concerning Afghanistan" by the end of April either in Geneva or in Vienna.

The meeting, to be attended only by "junior members of the different factions", would precede a second conference that would secure a solution to the Afghanistan problem.

The 'Ijlas'

Such a gathering—known as the "Ijlas"—would involve the participation of about 150 Afghan representatives acceptable to all sides. The gathering would aim to agree upon a transition period, as well as the transition mechanism, leading to the establishment of a broad-based government through free and fair elections in the country. It would be held outside the region, with the participation of as many segments of Afghan society as possible.

The Secretary-General said he had been urged by a wide variety of Afghan representatives—including political, religious and tribal leaders, opposition groups, resistance commanders and prominent personalities—to convene such a meeting.

The Secretary-General and his Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, would attend the informal conference, it was stated.

Widespread support continued for a political settlement based on the five elements contained in the 21 May 1991 statement of former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

The two guarantors of the 14 April 1988 Geneva Accords—the Soviet Union and the United States—announced they would discontinue, as of 1 January, delivery of weapons to all Afghan sides. Mr. Boutros-Ghali urged all other Governments concerned to adopt similar decisions. Not only should supply of arms stop, but also financing of arms purchases should cease, he added.

The Afghan Government released nine prisoners in February in response to an appeal by the Secretary-General.

'Operation Salam'

Eight Governments had made new pledges or contributions to 'Operation Salam' since 28 November 1991, the Office of the Coordinator for UN Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA) announced on 21 January. The operation is a major programme of emergency relief aid for Afghanistan by UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Germany, France and the Commonwealth of Independent States had paid $600,181, $336,972 and 6 billion roubles, respectively. Canada, the United States, Finland and Switzerland had pledged $1.2 million, $1 million, $698,000 and 750,000 Swiss francs, respectively.

Mr. Sevan said the new contributions provided "encouraging evidence" of the importance which Governments attached to UNOCA. "Such assistance", he added, "will not only help alleviate the prolonged suffering of the Afghan people, but also reinforce the progress that is being made towards a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan".

UN Photo 179720J. Isaac

Tribal leaders met with UN officials in February.

Secretary-General reports on 'grave situation' in Nagorno-Karabakh

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported on 26 March to the Security Council on the fact-finding mission of his Special Envoy, Cyrus Vance, to Nagorno-Karabakh—an enclave in Azerbaijan, with a mostly Armenian population—and to Yerevan and Baku, the capitals of Armenia and Azerbaijan, respectively. Mr. Vance's mission was not made at the Council's request.

The Secretary-General appealed to the parties involved in the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh to maintain an informal cease-fire arranged under Iran's auspices, which was to expire on 27 March. All those engaged in efforts towards establishing peace in the area, including the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), should exercise the greatest possible coordination in those efforts, he said. On 27 March, Iran announced that the cease-fire had been extended.

UN Photo 179304/M. Grant

Mr. Vance

On 19 March, the Secretary-General told the press in New York that the UN was not attempting to mediate in the dispute. On the contrary, it favoured mediation by countries of the region or regional organizations. The UN was also encouraging Europeans to play a role; the Organizaton's role was a complementary one, he said.

Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier of Czechoslovakia, as CSCE President, also undertook a mission to the area.

Fighting in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh had resulted in many deaths. The situation was particularly alarming, the Secretary-General said, due to the fact that Azerbaijan and Armenia had joined the UN as Member States on 14 February and 29 January, respectively, thereby assuming a solemn obligation under the UN Charter to resolve disputes by peaceful means.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali hoped for an immediate end to the fighting and that the parties would settle their disputes in accordance with their obligations as UN Member States, and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would be fully adhered to.

Efforts to resolve Cyprus question continue

Efforts to resolve the Cyprus question continued in the first three months of 1992, with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali meeting with Cypriot President George Vassiliou, leader of the Greek Cypriot community; Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community; and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of maintaining the momentum achieved in the summer of 1991 and proceeding expeditiously to complete the set of ideas of an overall framework agreement on Cyprus. The Security Council on 23 December 1991 had asked the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus and the leaders of Greece and Turkey to cooperate fully with regard to completing that agreement.

On 10 March, the Secretary-General appealed for voluntary contributions to finance the UN Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which had a deficit of $196 million as of mid-February 1992.

The Secretary-General said it was "most unfair" that troop-contributing countries should have to absorb a "disproportionate share" of UNFICYP's cost.

On 26 March, the appointment of Major-General Michael Finbarr Minehane of Ireland as UNFICYP Commander was announced. He succeeds Major-General Clive Milner of Canada. The new Commander has served with the UN missions in the Congo, Cyprus and Lebanon.

Council expresses deep concern over renewed violence in Lebanon

The Security Council on 19 February expressed deep concern over the "renewed and rising cycle of violence in southern Lebanon and elsewhere" in the Middle East, and deplored, in particular, the "recent killings and the continued violence which threatens to claim additional lives and to destabilize the region further".

In a statement on the Council's behalf, President Thomas R. Pickering of the United States said its members called upon all those involved to exercise maximum restraint in order to end the violence.

They reaffirmed their commitment to Lebanon's full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity within its internationally recognized boundaries, as set out in Council resolution 425 (1978). In that context, they asserted that "any State shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations".

Also, by a unanimous decision of the Security Council on 29 January, the mandate of the United Nations Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was extended for a further six-month period until 31 July 1992. The 14-year-old UN peace-keeping force currently numbers 5,764.

In its resolution 734 (1992), the Council reiterated its strong support for Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized boundaries. All parties concerned were called on to cooperate fully with UNIFIL. The Council also approved the Secretary-General's overall objective of promoting UNIFIL's greater effectiveness.

Coordinator for UN aid to Lebanon named

Hendrik van der Kloet of the Netherlands has been appointed Coordinator for the UN Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL). He will also serve as Resident Representative in Lebanon of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Council condemns Palestinian deportations

The Security Council on 6 January strongly condemned the 2 January decision of Israel to resume deportations of Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories. In unanimously adopting resolution 726 (1992), the Council asked Israel to refrain from such actions and ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported.

The Council also reaffirmed the applicability of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

In debate, Nasser Al-Kidwa, Observer for Palestine, said that since Israel's occupation in 1967, it had deported approximately 2,000 Palestinians, thereby violating numerous Council resolutions. Yoram Aridor of Israel responded that Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians, who were "heavily implicated in organizing terror attacks", had not been hastily taken.

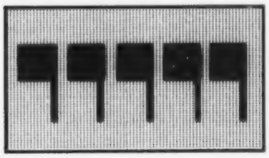
Also on 6 January, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated that the Israeli deportations should be reconsidered. At a time when efforts were under way to sustain momentum in the Middle East peace process, he hoped that all sides would refrain from acts that could serve only to heighten tension in the area.

At the first meeting of 1992 of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Secretary-General told the Committee that he hoped that the momentum generated by the Madrid talks and subsequent negotiations would be sustained and that the lasting peace that had so long been denied to all the peoples of the Middle East would become a reality.

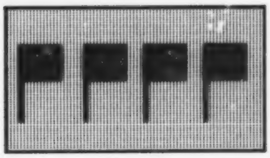
At a joint UN Asian Seminar and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Symposium on the Question of Palestine (20-24 January, Nicosia, Cyprus), participants welcomed the convening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid and the subsequent bilateral talks in Washington, D.C., expressing hope that the talks would lead to a just and lasting peace in the region.

They called for a UN force to protect Palestinians and for the Council to establish in East Jerusalem an authority to monitor human rights violations in the occupied territories.

'Towards universality'



Nine States join UN; Membership grows to 175



UN Photo179431/M. Tzovaras

Flag-raising ceremony on 2 March.

UN Photo 179471/M. Tzovaras

Making delegation signs for the new nations.

Nine new Member States were admitted to the United Nations on 2 March, bringing the total membership to 175. They are the Republics of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and San Marino. The General Assembly took that action by acclamation as it resumed its forty-sixth session. Within a period of less than six months—since the session convened in mid-September 1991—the Organization has been enlarged by the addition of 16 new Members.

"We wish them all success", said Assembly President Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, in welcoming the new States. "We look forward hopefully to their constructive contributions in the future, both in their own interest and in the interest of mankind as a whole." The UN, he believed, would be "strengthened by their membership". Between 23 January and 25 February, the Security Council met six times to consider granting UN membership to those States.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, speaking at the flag-raising ceremony that took place immediately after the 2 March admission, said that the UN was "taking another major step forward towards our goal of universality". More than ever before, he stated, today's world was a "global village". All countries, "however small or distant, can benefit from closer cooperation with the rest of the world".

UN membership has more than tripled since its founding in 1945. That steady expansion showed that "all countries, big and small, rich and poor, look towards membership of the Organization as an important goal for a free and independent State".

Referring to the former republics of the USSR, he said that the entrance of those eight newly-independent States reflected the momentous changes taking place recently in international life. These new nations "have a long, rich and varied history and represent a complex blend of cultures, religions, languages and customs. They are adjusting to their new role and circumstances with resilience and courage. Their entry into the United Nations will enrich our Organization and enhance its diversity."

He also welcomed San Marino, "one of the oldest States in the world" and previously a UN Observer, adding that he was happy that it had "recognized the need to participate more fully in the work of our Organization".

"In today's changing world, the principle of universality is ever more important", stated Council President Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom in January. The admission of the new Members "will help to consolidate the positive developments that the world has witnessed in the last few months".

Each year, as many as 50,000 species become extinct, up to 17 million hectares of forest—an area roughly the size of Saudi Arabia—disappear, more than 8.2 billion tons of polluting carbon dioxide are dumped into the atmosphere, and some 6.5 million tons of refuse find its way into the world's seas, choking seabirds and poisoning fish. At the same time, stalled development in the poor countries of the Earth has left some 1 billion people—a fifth of the global population—living on the equivalent of less than one dollar a day. And the world population is growing by some 100 million people annually, most of them in the poor, developing countries, least able to cope with it.

The Earth Summi

'An opportunity we cannot af

It has become evident that protection of the local as well as the global environment must be integral to the development process throughout our increasingly interdependent world.

From 3 to 14 June, the wide-ranging, highly publicized UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)—the "Earth Summit"—will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 years after the first worldwide UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972.

The Stockholm Conference secured its place in the history of our times with the adoption of the first global action plan for the environment. It also led to the creation of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as the international instrument to build environmental awareness and stewardship.

Yet, as increasingly grim statisti indicate, over the past two decade our global environment and the li ing conditions for most of the planet's inhabitants have continue to deteriorate. This process has meant significant setbacks for bot rich and poor.

"What we have been doing is managing the Earth without a

t

ford to miss'

What is called for is nothing less than a new 'eco-industrial' revolution.
—UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong

UN Photo 155496/J. Isaac

depreciation, amortization and maintenance account'', says Maurice Strong, who was the chief organizer of the Stockholm Conference and is UNCED Secretary-General and prime mover for this year's Rio Conference.

''If you did that with a corporation ... you'd be running down your capital and eventually you would go into liquidation. ... The same is true of 'Earth Incorporated'. The Earth is not viable in economic terms any more—we're literally headed for bankruptcy, and that is why we need sustainable development on a global basis.''

With a record number of Heads of State expected to attend, the Earth Summit will serve as a high-level board meeting to adopt a new plan for putting ''Earth Incorporated'' back into business for the long term.

National leaders will be joined by some 10,000 representatives of international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as from the scientific and business communities. In addition, another

UN Photo 157429/P. Sudhakaran

We are all involved . . .

20,000 are expected to attended the NGO Global Forum, which will meet in Rio, concurrently with the Summit.

The unprecedented range and rank of people attending UNCED mirror the scope of the issues the Conference will address. Environmental degradation does not respect frontiers and borders. It does not recognize the so-called North-South divide. It does not discriminate between peoples or age groups.

Both the consumption-oriented wealth of the industrialized world and the poverty of the developing world are leading to environmental degradation. And a destroyed environment can, in turn, ruin prospects for the future development of rich and poor alike.

The Stockholm Conference recognized the links between environment and development.

But little was done to integrate this concept for international action until 1987 when *Our Common Future*—the acclaimed report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland—was presented to the UN General Assembly.

The "Brundtland Report"—as it is widely known—stimulated debate on development policies and practices in developing and industrialized countries alike, and called for an integration of our understanding of the environment and development into practical measures for action.

IFAD Photo/C. Rycroft

Sustaining human development . . .

The Road to Rio

Armed with three years of testimony from people at hearings on five continents, the Commission came to one central conclusion: "Present development trends leave increasing numbers of people poor and vulnerable, while at the same time degrading the environment.

"Poverty is a major cause and effect of global environmental problems. It is therefore futile to attempt to deal with environmental problems without a broader perspective that encompasses the factors underlying world poverty and international inequality.

"We came to see that a new development path was required, one that sustained human progress not just in a few places for a few years, but for the entire planet into the distant future. Sustainable development' becomes a goal not just for the 'developing' nations, but for industrial ones as well."

The idea for the Earth Summit was approved on 22 December 1989, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/228, calling for a global summit on environment and development as a response to, and to build upon, the Brundtland Report.

"The 1992 Conference will focus largely on the changes we must make in our economic behaviour to ensure global environmental security", UNCED Secretary-General Strong has stated. "Preparations for the Conference will define the concrete measures to effect this transition to sustainability in our economic life."

Over the course of two years, the UNCED Preparatory Committee hammered out a far-reaching agenda for the Conference. Top billing will go to "Agenda 21", a comprehensive action plan extending into the twenty-first century, which provides a blueprint for integrating environmental protection with economic development.

Negotiators agreed at the fourth and final Preparatory Committee session (New York, March-April) on dozens of specific programmes, though many remained partially "bracketed" pending futher negotiations. Three important issues—technology transfer and financing for the implementation of the Agenda, as well as a set of principles for safeguarding the world's forests—will also arrive in Rio unresolved.

The final session did agree on a set of 27 draft principles that may become the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Declaration will be considered in Rio, instead of a proposed "Earth Charter".

The draft principles would commit the international community to actions never before universally accepted, including acknowledgement of "common but differentiated responsibilities" in a global partnership to protect the environment, and acceptance of the need for eradicating poverty as an "indispensable requirement" for sustainable development.

In particular, developed countries would acknowledge their resonsibility in the international pursuit of sustainable development due to the pressures placed by their societies on "the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command".

The declaration would also support the "polluter pays" principle and a precautionary approach to environmental protection.

Two international conventions—on preventing climate change and on protecting the world's biological diversity—may also be opened for signature at the Summit.

"No single event can be expected in itself to resolve the many complex issues that will be confronting world leaders as they meet in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992", Mr. Strong has said.

"But the Earth Summit offers a unique opportunity to establish the foundations for effecting the major shift in inertia required to put us on the pathway to a more secure and sustainable future as we move into the twenty-first century.

"If we fail to do this in Rio in 1992, the prospects of having another chance to do so in our generation—if ever—will be very slim indeed. It is an opportunity we simply cannot afford to miss."

UN Photo 177315/M. Grant

Safeguarding irreplaceable natural resources . . .

Agenda 21: Towards a more just, secure and prosperous habitat

A comprehensive plan of action extending into the twenty-first century will chart a new course: a global partnership for sustainable development.

Based on a growing understanding of the impact of human behaviour on the environment and in turn of a degraded environment on future prospects for development, "Agenda 21"—the plan to be adopted in Rio de Janeiro by representatives of the world community—has an unprecedented scope: it is the first international action plan which specifically links economic development with environmental protection.

The integration of economic and ecological concerns "will lead to the fulfillment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future", the preamble states. "No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can."

The proposed chapters of Agenda 21 set out specific programmes to make long-term changes in the development activities of all people, in order to put an end to ecological destruction and economic inequity. The emphasis is placed firmly on linkages, through the inclusion of "cross-sectoral" issues such as poverty, consumption patterns, health, human settlements, financial resources and technology transfer; and "sectoral" issues such as energy and climate, which impact upon each other, as well as upon a wide range of other issues concerning environment and development.

The 900-page document for scrutiny at the Earth Summit is, like many other UN action plans, nonbinding in the legal sense, but it will imply strong political commitments.

As UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong has said: "With the high-level political sanction it will receive at the Conference, its potential for influencing and guiding the subsequent policies and programmes of Governments and organizations charged with implementing it will be substantial."

Humanity stands at a defining moment in its history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being.

—From the preamble to Agenda 21

UN Photo 155711/J. Isaac

Well-defined goals

Agenda 21 includes not only well-defined goals, but also a structure of responsibility for reaching those goals, together with estimates of costs and a time scale for the implementation of measures set out in each chapter. It promises to address "the pressing problems of today and also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century".

Seven chapters of action programmes relating to broad social and economic concerns open Agenda 21. The cross-cutting issues addressed in that section aim to resolve long-standing problems of international trade; eradicate poverty; change consumption patterns; reduce demographic pressures brought about by an escalating population; and raise standards of shelter, sanitation, health and other aspects of human settlements.

Conservation and resource management are central to the second section, which contains 14 chapters of programmes aimed at more efficient use of land, forests, water, energy and biotic resources. Action measures also seek to reduce, recycle and safely dispose of waste and anticipate and manage the risks of human intervention in natural systems, particularly regarding biotechnology and toxic chemicals, such as pesticides.

The entire third section—nine chapters—are dedicated to recognizing and strengthening the role in sustainable development of women, youth, indigenous peoples and other major groups, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local authorities, trade unions, business and industry, and the scientific community.

The last section of the Agenda, which outlines implementation steps, has been the most difficult to negotiate as it reaches for specific commitments for financing, technology transfer and institutional arrangements. These chapters are to be the subject of high-level negotiations at the Earth Summit itself.

Less controversially, the last section also provides plans to place the integrated issues of environment and development at the heart of decision-making through a reorientation of attitudes and changes in information systems used for development and environment monitoring.

Agenda 21 must be approved by the Heads of State and other high-level ministers gathering at Rio if the international action plan is to become an official global guide for changes in behaviour at the international, regional, community and individual levels.

As such, it could define "the path to sustainable future for the human family", states an overview of the plan by UNCED Secretary-General Strong.

Its adoption, he has said, would be "a first step towards ensuring that, within the lifetime of someone born today, the world will become a more just, secure and prosperous habitat for all of humanity."

All proposals for Agenda 21 activities and commitments detailed in the following articles are subject to revision during final negotiations at the Earth Summit in June.

Voices for the voiceless

Agenda 21 will strive to empower the social groups of the world which are often excluded from political, economic and ecological decision-making: youth, indigenous people, businesses, local authorities, workers, farmers, scientists, non-governmental organizations and, perhaps most importantly, women—the primary caretakers of the living environment, who comprise more than half the global population.

The action plan calls for a strategy to eliminate obstacles to the participation of women in sustainable development and public life by the year 2000.

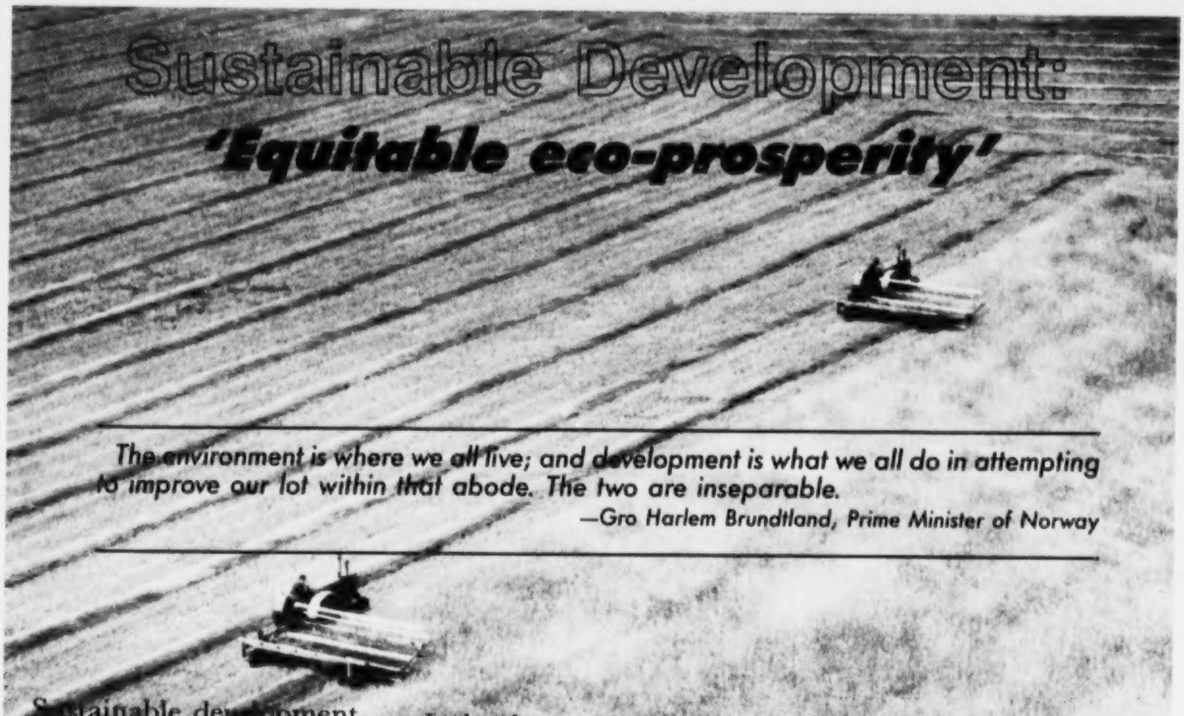
It also aims to actively involve youth in protecting the environment and promoting development, and to empower indigenous peoples through measures to protect lands and communities from environmental degradation and support for alternative means of production to improve their quality of life within the context of sustainable development.

Agenda 21 would also emphasize the vital part that business and industry have to play in environmentally-sound social and economic development.

UN Photo 153910/H. Larson

Sustainable Development:

'Equitable eco-prosperity'



UN Photo 133268

> *The environment is where we all live; and development is what we all do in attempting to improve our lot within that abode. The two are inseparable.*
>
> *—Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway*

Sustainable development is a complex concept more easily defined by what it is not, than by what it actually is. Fundamentally, it is not based on the conventional belief that economic progress and environmental protection are mutually opposing goals.

Rather, it rests on the emerging consensus that environmental protection is not only compatible with economic growth, but can also enhance it. Therefore, if development is sustainable, then the quality of human life is improved at the same time that the earth's natural resource base is conserved.

The main focus of sustainable development is on linkages: it links our economic decisions with our ecological well-being, and vice-versa; it links the quality of life for all humans with the quality of the environment which we all share; and it links the way we live with the way our children and our children's children will be able to live.

In the oft-quoted words of the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, sustainable development is that which "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Changing our ways

The definition sheds light on the shortfalls of our past "unsustainable" development patterns: global environmental threats—depletion of the ozone layer, risks of climate change, loss of biodiversity and degradation of waters—clearly compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own development needs. Moreover, with more than 1 billion people living below the poverty line, traditional development has far from met even the needs of the present.

The achievement of sustainable development requires radical changes in our attitudes and behaviour, which begins with a recognition that we live in an interdependent world where the biggest threat to our security is destruction of the planet which we all share.

Sustainable development, therefore, "depends on accepting a duty to seek harmony with other people and with nature", according to *Caring for the Earth, A Strategy for Sustainable Living*, prepared jointly by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Conservation Union and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

"The guiding rules are that people must share with each other and care for the Earth. Humanity must take no more from nature than nature can replenish. This in turn means adopting life styles and development paths that respect and work within nature's limits."

All countries have a "common but differentiated" responsibility, according to UNCTAD VIII's Cartagena Commitment. "Industrialized countries currently emit the largest quantity of pollutants into the global environment and are the major users of natural resources. At the same time, they are best placed to contribute to solutions to environmental problems by implementing relevant policy measures and mobilizing the necessary financial and technological means".

It goes on: "Developing countries are concerned with local environmental problems—including soil erosion, desertification and rapid urbanization. . . . These countries are, however, also vulnerable to global environmental problems. Their contribution to the solution of these problems is essential. The additional burden involved should be underpinned by appropriate additional international support."

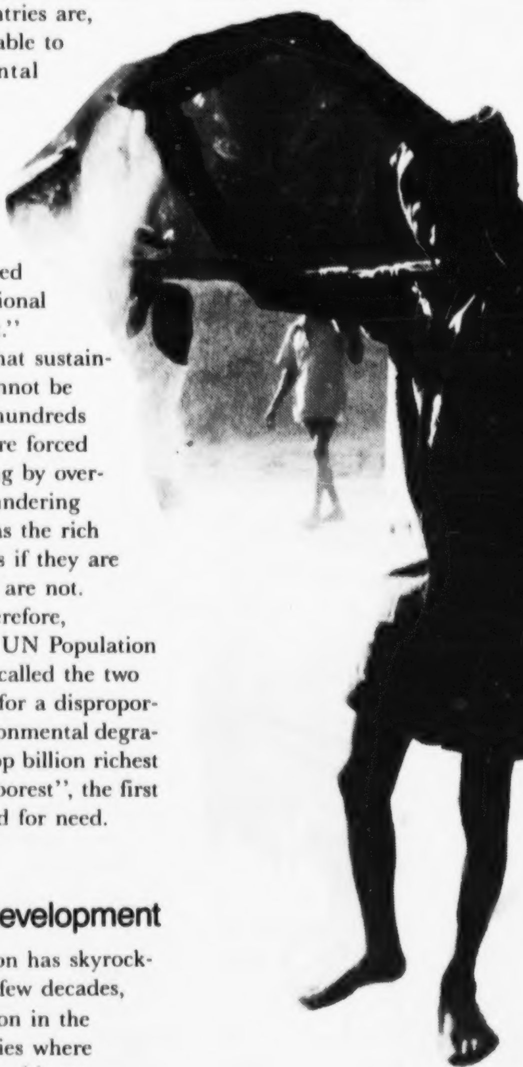
It is widely held that sustainable development cannot be achieved as long as hundreds of millions of poor are forced to scratch out a living by overgrazing land and plundering forests; nor as long as the rich consume resources as if they are unlimited —for they are not.

Changes must, therefore, begin with what the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has called the two groups "responsible for a disproportionate share of environmental degradation: the world's top billion richest and bottom billion poorest", the first for choice, the second for need.

'Throw-away' development

Global consumption has skyrocketed during the last few decades, driven by consumption in the industrialized countries where "fewer people make a bigger environmental impact", a background paper for the Conference states. One person in the North, according to UN figures, consumes 14 to 115 times more paper, 6 to 52 times more meat and 10 to 35 times more energy than a person in a developing country.

This profligate consumption has generated fast-growing mountains of waste, which are increasingly difficult and costly to dispose of safely. So much plastic has found its way into the world's oceans that nearly 2 million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals die each year from choking on or becoming entangled in the debris.



UN Photo 153867/P. Sudhakaran

Less tangible wastes in the form of polluting gases have also intensified. With just a quarter of the world's population, the developed countries produce more than 50 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases. Per capita emission levels are on average eight times higher in industrialized countries than in developing countries.

As a result, air pollution and acid rain are devastating crops, forests and buildings over vast areas of North America and Europe. Moreover, climate change and ozone depletion caused by the accumulation of pollutants in the atmosphere pose a global threat of frightening proportions.

Global scourge

While developing countries account for more than three quarters of the world's population, they earn just 15 per cent of global income.

"Measured in terms of dollars, the world has 157 billionaires, some 2 million millionaires and more than 1.5 billion people living in wretched poverty, garbage dumps, shanty towns or resourceless rural lands," according to one UNCED report. Poor people lack adequate health care; as many as 2 billion lack safe water and sanitation; more than 14 million children never reach the age of five; and one fifth of the world's population goes hungry every day. "The cumulative effect . . . is so far-reaching as to make poverty itself a major global scourge", the Bruntland report stated.

Both urban and rural poor worldwide also suffer a disproportionate share of environmental abuse and pollution: three fourths of hazardous waste landfills in southeastern United States are in low-income neighborhoods. Migrants working on farms, especially women, are exposed more than others to toxic pesticides.

Burgeoning populations

Population pressures further aggravate the situation. In the last 40 years, the world's population has doubled—from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 5 billion in 1990. And a new UN report estimates that global population could again double by the mid-twenty-first century, reaching 10 billion.

About 95 per cent of population growth is taking place in the developing world, which currently supports 4.1 billion people—nearly 80 per cent of the global total.

"Rapid population growth tends to both strangle the infrastructure and do great damage to the resource-base of a country", the UNCED secretariat has reported. "The fast-growing populations of developing countries have for the moment a limited influence on global environment issues but their own development is made more difficult by rapid population growth."

Numbers alone are not the root of the problem. Japan, for example, with 320 people per square kilometre of land, is ranked first among 160 countries on the United Nations Development Programme's *Human Development Index*, while Mali, with only 6 people per square kilometre, is 156th. Experts say it is the relationship between the size of the population and the resources and resiliency of the habitat and the economy that is the most important determinant of sustainability.

Sparsely settled areas in Africa and the Amazon rainforest have difficulty supporting their populations because of the scarcity of habitable land and essential resources. Thus, the concept of "carrying capacity"—the number of people an area can support without compromising its ability to do so in the future—is crucial.

About three quarters of the people in developing countries live in areas with a low carrying capacity—on ecologically fragile lands in economically fragile systems. Escalating demands for food, fuelwood, water and other essential resources force the poor to overcrop, overgraze and overcut land, or to migrate into already over-crowded cities or onto even more marginal lands, thus accelerating the degradation of already fragile ecosystems.

UN Photo 123684

In the last 40 years, the world's population has doubled to more than 5 billion people.

Bursting settlements

The rural-to-urban migration has resulted in huge shanty towns and slums in cities bursting with ill-health, overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, toxic wastes, rotting garbage and foul air.

By the year 2000, UNEP estimates that 77 per cent of Latin Americans, some 40 per cent of Africans and 35 per cent of Asians will live in cities.

"The runaway expansion of towns and cities in the developing countries has overwhelmed transport, communications, water supply, sanitation and energy systems, and created a vast array of environmental, social and economic problems", UNEP states.

In 1990, some 244 million urban dwellers in developing countries lived without clean waters and 377 million did not have sanitary facilities. Human and household wastes regularly clog rivers, streams, canals and ditches. Rural populations often live in even worse conditions.

"Most of all, rapid population growth has acted as a brake on economic growth by diverting resources away from investment and hampering efforts to raise per capita income, education, and other ingredients of development", UNCED has concluded.

Sustainable trade

The complex equation for sustainable development involves not only changing consumption, eliminating poverty and balancing populations with available resources, but also reducing the impact of economic growth. Achieving the latter requires transforming the world economy as whole, with specific emphasis on international trade.

According to the Cartagena Commitment, "sustainable development places environmental concerns firmly within the context of growth". It also "implies changes in the economies of all countries, as well as enhanced international economic cooperation, so as to make economic growth and environmental protection mutually supportive".

Agenda 21

The cross-cutting edge of sustainable development

Accelerate sustainable development through international economic policy by:

- Promoting development through trade, in particular through an open and equitable multilateral trading system and improving access to markets for exports of developing countries.
- Making environment and trade mutually supportive by encouraging international productivity and competitiveness and clarifying the role of GATT, UNCTAD and other international organizations in dealing with trade and environment related issues, including dispute settlement.
- Providing adequate financial resources to developing countries, possibly through reduction of external debt and an increase in official development assistance from developed countries to 0.7 of gross domestic product.
- Encouraging macroeconomic policies conducive to sustaining environment and development, such as stabilizing interest rates, stimulating savings and reducing fiscal deficits.

Alleviate poverty by:

- Enabling the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods through development programmes that focus on income generation, increased local control of resources, local capacity-building and greater involvement of NGOs and local governments.
- Focusing on investment in human capital, with special policies and programmes directed at rural areas, the urban poor, women and children.

End wasteful consumption by:

- Promoting patterns of consumption and production that reduce environmental stress and will meet the basic needs of humanity. Developed countries should take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles. Developing countries, in order to develop, will need technological and other assistance from industrialized countries, "without replicating those wasteful and inefficient consumption patterns."
- Developing national policies and strategies to encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns by, for example, promoting efficiency, minimizing waste generation, and educating consumers to make environmentally-sound purchase decisions.

Address demographic dynamics by:

- Developing and disseminating information on the links between demographic trends and sustainable development.
- Formulating integrated national policies for population, environment and development.
- Implementing integrated population, environment and development programmes at the local level through such measures as universal access to family planning services and safe contraceptives; and direct education programmes aimed at both men and women.

Promote sustainable human settlements by:

- Providing adequate shelter for all.
- Improving human settlements management, especially urban management.
- Promoting sustainable land use through environmentally-sound physical planning to ensure access to land to all households.
- Ensuring provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and waste management in all settlements by the year 2025.
- Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems.
- Promoting human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas, in order to mitigate the impact of natural and man-made disasters.
- Promoting sustainable construction industry activities.
- Promoting human resource development by enhancing personal and institutional capacity, particularly of indigenous people and women.

Protect and promote human health by:

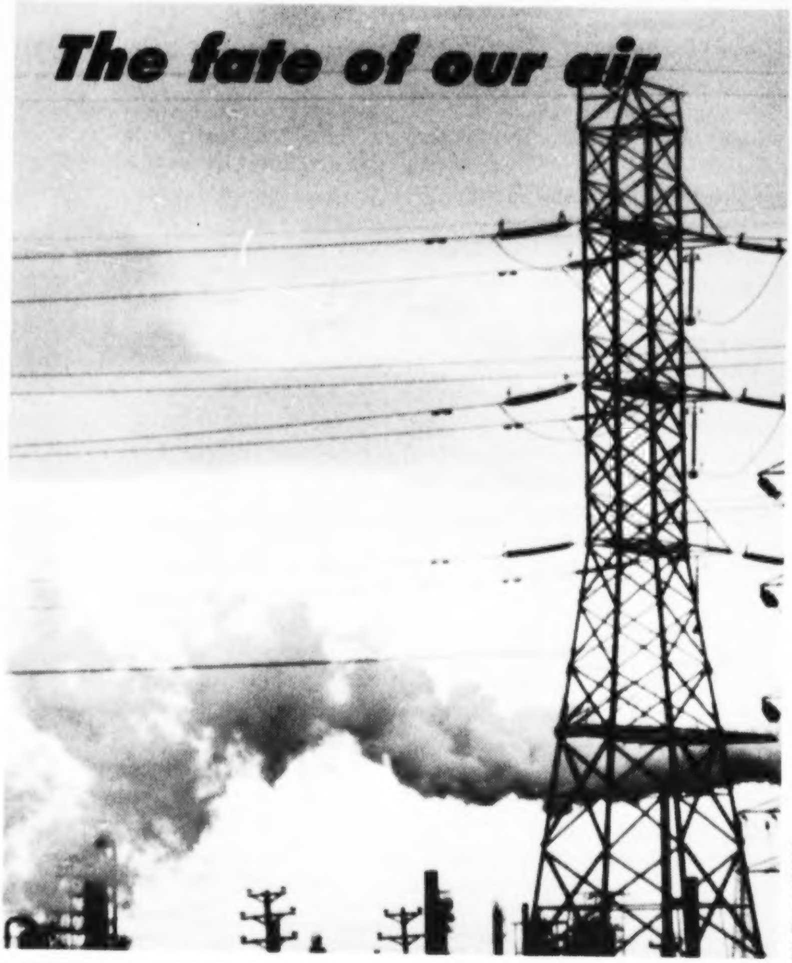
- Meeting basic health needs, such as safe food, balanced nutrition, clean drinking water and adequate sanitation.
- Controlling communicable diseases by eliminating polio and other maladies, and improving access to vaccines and other health care.
- Protecting vulnerable groups: infants, youth, women and indigenous peoples.
- Meeting the urban health challenge by improving health indicators, such as infant mortality, maternal mortality and diarrhoeal diseases by the year 2000.
- Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards.

Integrate environment and development in decision-making by:

- Integrating environment and development at the policy, planning and management levels.
- Providing effective legal and regulatory framework for the integration of environment and development policies.
- Making effective use of economic instruments and market and other incentives.
- Establishing systems for integrating environmental and economic accounting and creating prices which reflect the costs of natural resources.

Atmosphere:

The fate of our air



UN Photo 153566

Every morning, as people around the world start their day, they take part in a process that is altering the atmosphere of our planet. The motors of 500 million vehicles are revved and uncounted small pollutant clouds are released into the air. As factories are powered and work begins on farms and in forests, the pollution cloud grows.

In the shadow of traffic-generated smog alerts in Los Angeles, Bangkok and other cities, to the coal-fired blackness of industries in Eastern Europe, and the smoky cooking-fires of sub-Saharan Africa, more than 1 billion people breathe air that does not meet minimum health standards.

These pollutant gases rise high in the earth's atmosphere, where they destroy the protective ozone layer and trap the heat of the sun, causing the planet to warm, as if it were in a greenhouse.

> ***Have we so defiled our inheritance from nature that we will die, not live, from the air we breathe?***
>
> *—Shridath Ramphal, author of Our Country, The Planet*

UN Photo 155011/P. Sudhakaran

"The atmosphere of the Earth is both a reservoir . . . for many of the bi-products of human activity, and a pathway by which these materials make their way from industrial and other sources to the oceans, to the biosphere, and to humans", an UNCED document states.

In the atmosphere, emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are transformed into sulphuric and nitric acids, which fall on the ground in dry particles or moisture. In this manner, pollution created in one region is showered down onto the inhabitants and landscape of another as so-called "acid rain". Trees are killed, crops damaged, drinking water tainted and buildings marred by the polluted precipitation.

The 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, which entered into force in 1983, requires countries to cooperate in monitoring, studying and acting to reduce such atmospheric pollution. Virtually all of Europe and the North American countries have adhered to the regional Convention, which has helped to reduce noxious emissions by as much as 50 per cent in some countries.

Yet, precipitation in Europe and North America—the biggest polluters—remains about 10 times more acidic than normal. An estimated 60 per cent of trees in Germany, for example, have succumbed to pollution.

Acid rain has also taken its toll on mankind's cultural heritage, pitting and weakening the surfaces of such age-old monuments as the Acropolis in Greece, the Coliseum in Italy and the Taj Mahal in India.

The ozone hole

Other pollutants leave little trace on the ground. But gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—used as coolants in refrigerators, solvents in industry and propellants in aerosol sprays—wreak havoc 25 to 40 miles above the earth in the ozone layer, a vital part of the atmosphere which screens the planet from harmful ultraviolet radiation.

CFCs and other gases slowly move up the atmosphere, and when they arrive, the gases remain for 100 years or more, each molecule acting and reacting over and over again to break down ozone. As more and more ultraviolet radiation reaches the earth, skin cancer increases, crops are damaged, climate changes and species become extinct.

Scientists confirmed that CFCs were attacking the ozone layer with the discovery of an ozone ''hole'' over Antarctica in the mid 1980s. The most recent data indicate that ozone depletion has spread to the Northern Hemisphere, where another ''hole'' may open up by the end of the century.

The 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which went into force in 1988, provides a framework for international cooperation to monitor and protect the ozone layer. This was augmented by the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which provides for cuts in production and consumption of the ozone-depleting CFCs.

Global warming

While the ozone layer has been depleted, other protective aspects of the atmosphere are being enhanced, but with equally devastating effects. The planet's natural insulation—the so-called ''greenhouse effect''—is essential to life on earth, making the planet cozily inhabitable. Without it, the temperature at the Earth's surface would be some 33 degrees Celsius lower than it is today.

But human pollution threatens to transform this natural phenomenon into an environmental threat. As gases, particularly carbon dioxide, enhance the ''greenhouse'' cloak around the earth, a rise in global average temperatures of up to 5 degrees Celsius is expected over the next 100 years—a rate of change unprecedented in the past 10,000 years.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established by the UN in 1988, has warned that global warming could increase drought and desertification in some parts of the world, storms and flooding in others. Countries near the poles could become more temperate, while warming oceans and melting land ice could cause sea levels to rise up to 40 centimetres over the next 40 years.

As islands and low-lying coastal areas disappear and the geographical distribution of numerous plants and animals changes, many people may be forced to migrate.

''Accelerated climate change must now be seen as the primary risk to the human future'', UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong has said. ''Like a cancer spreading through the body of our global society, the effects are likely to be irreversible by the time the symptoms become painful.''

Stabilizing the climate

A framework convention on climate change is being negotiated by representatives of 148 countries in an attempt to avert the threat of global warming. The draft convention, which the UN General Assembly has asked to be ready for signature at the Earth Summit in June, will provide a legally-binding strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other human activities which impact global climate.

However, the reluctance of some industrialized countries—the main source of pollutants implicated in global warming—to commit to specific timetables and targets for stabilizing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions has been a major roadblock to reaching agreement.

Agenda 21

Clearing the air

- **Improve scientific understanding of the processes that influence and are influenced by the earth's atmosphere on global, regional and local scales.**
- **Promote sustainable development in the areas of energy efficiency and consumption, transportation, industrial development, terrestrial and marine resource development and land use.**
- **Prevent stratospheric ozone depletion through compliance with the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, including consideration of the special needs of developing countries for access to alternatives to ozone-depleting substances, and strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface.**
- **Control transboundary atmospheric pollution through development of pollution-control technologies; strengthen assessment and mitigaton of transboundary air pollution, especially from industrial and nuclear accidents; and reduce emissions which cause such pollution.**

Biodiversity: *Variety is the spice of life*

UNESCO Photo/A. Vorontzoff

> *Whatever happens to the earth, happens to the people of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life: he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.*
>
> *—19th Century American Indian Chief Seattle*

The intricate web woven over 3 billion years of life on Earth has been enriched by an ever-increasing variety of species: animals roam, insects crawl, birds fly and fish swim across our planet.

A varied palette of life—from flower to fungi—sprouts from the Earth. Countless tiny organisms leave their microscopic footprints. This rich kaleidoscope of living things—on land, in the air and undersea—is collectively known as the biological diversity or "biodiversity" of our planet.

Human beings—"homo sapiens"—are just one among the incredible array of life forms, perhaps as many as 30 million different species in all, that inhabit the Earth. Yet human activity—the doings of a single species—now threatens our planetary biodiversity. Through the destruction of habitats by hunting, pollution and selective breeding, the hand of humankind is snuffing out species at an alarming rate.

While fewer than 10 species have become extinct each year over the last 600,000 years, we now lose about one every hour. Indeed, UNEP has predicted that up to 25 per cent of living species may become extinct within a single human lifetime.

UNCED warns: "Although it is not known what the exact negative consequences of losing biodiversity are, there is apprehension that the consequences of biodiversity loss may be grave."

Tropical forests cover less than 10 per cent of the earth's surface; yet, they are home to more than half of the world's entire inventory of species. UNEP predicts that by the year 2020, extinctions caused primarily by tropical deforestation may eliminate between 5 and 15 per cent of the world's species.

Wetlands, a rich breeding habitat for many species of flora and fauna, are also in retreat nearly everywhere they are found, UNEP reports. The United States has lost more than half of its coastal and freshwater wetlands, New Zealand has lost over 90 per cent and many parts of Europe have lost nearly all their natural wetlands.

The commercial value of animals also threatens many species. Over harvesting has put a myriad of marine species at risk, while overexploitation has caused the extinction of some large terrestrial animals, such as the wild buffalo in the United States. Others, among them the African elephant and black rhino, are still in danger.

Many birds are on the endangered species list and some 40 per cent of bird species are threatened in France. Global warming poses even greater dangers, as rapid climate changes can cause great waves of extinction. And once lost, a species can never be brought back.

Why we should worry

Much of our food comes from wild species, as do many essential industrial raw materials, such as rubber, paper and wood.

Millions of people owe their lives to medicines extracted from rain forest species. Drugs from a periwinkle plant endemic to Madagascar have upped the survival rate for children with leukemia from 20 to 80 per cent. As only 1 per cent of rainforest plants have been screened for medicinal value, tropical deforestation may be wiping out unknown and irreplaceable cures for devastating diseases.

Agenda 21

Biodiversity and biotechnology

- **Push for the early entry into force of the biological diversity convention and develop national strategies for the sustainable use of biological resources.**
- **Share the benefits derived from research and use of biological and genetic resources.**
- **Foster indigenous methods and knowledge relevant to conserving biological diversity and ensure they share the economic benefits.**
- **Use biotechnology to increase the availability of food, feed and renewable materials; develop vaccines, drugs and other medical technology; and generate energy, minimize and treat wastes, reforest land, and create new plant varieties.**
- **Ensure safety in the application of biotechnology through an international agreement on principles for risk management.**

Biodiversity is also integral to the traditional way of life of forest dwellers and indigenous peoples. Loss of such diversity threatens their very survival.

Manipulating life

A dwindling pool of species inhibits biotechnology, a science which alters, selects and propagates living things for the benefit of mankind. Production of food can be increased, medicines created and energy supplied. In Asia, biotechnology has improved wheat production by $2 billion and rice production by $1.5 billion annually.

In transferring genes between plants or animals, modern science has created at least 1,000 different strains of mice using genes from other species, including one bred to develop cancer so oncologists can improve their research.

Biotechnical advances may also involve serious risks. Once released from laboratories, genetically-engineered organisms can have an unexpected impact on the environment. Unlike hazardous chemicals or pollutants, these living, reproducing man-made organisms cannot simply be recalled.

Diminishing genetic diversity—the variation of genes within species—is another consequence of biotechnology. By breeding crops for higher yields, the variety of genes is depleted, often at the expense of pest and disease resistance.

Sharing the treasure

While two thirds of existing species are found in developing countries, the biotechnological tools to exploit this diversity rests in the industrialized world. The exploiters, not holders, of those species reap tremendous profits.

For instance, while Madagascar's periwinkle drugs are worth about $160 million a year in sales to northern pharmaceutical companies which have patented the medicine, little benefit is derived by the country of origin.

Industry and Governments in the north defend such patenting as a way to compensate private enterprise for its risks, research and development expenses. However, developing countries believe that private ownership of biotechnology widens the gap between north and south.

"Differences revolve around the concept of access, access by high-technology western companies to the plant and animal wealth of developing countries, and access by developing countries to the biotechnology needed to make commercial use of that wealth", Shridath Ramphal writes.

An equitable system would provide fair compensation both to the private companies holding property rights for technology transfer and to the owners of natural resources for providing them for the benefit of humanity.

Conserving species

To protect the planet's diverse biological resources, which comprise every form of life from the tiniest microbe to the whale and the Redwood tree, an intergovernmental negotiating group sponsored by UNEP started work in 1990 on a biodiversity convention.

Expected to be ready for signature at Rio, the convention will provide an international framework on how to use and still preserve biological resources. Negotiations have also focussed on access to biological resources for industrialized countries and to technology for developing countries.

Assigning monetary value to biological resources, controlling the impact of genetically-altered organisms and paying for the preservation of biodiversity are other aspects of the draft treaty which were to be tackled at the final negotiating session (Nairobi, 11-19 May).

Forests:

The lungs of our planet

FAO Photo

Forests are the lungs of the planet, "inhaling" polluting carbon from the air and "exhaling" life-giving oxygen. Forest covers protect soils, stabilize local climates and provide irreplaceable homes for the wildly rich and diverse flora and fauna of the world.

On the other hand, harvesting forests has long been part of mankind's development, providing livelihoods in the logging industry, food-producing land to farmers and ranchers, and essential fuel for billions in developing countries.

For eons, the Earth's forests were considered to be a limitless resource. But deforestation in this century has reached crisis proportions: in the last 20 years, human activity has resulted in the loss of as much forest cover as was previously cleared in all of history.

Some 10,000 years ago, before man cultivated land, a luxurious, virgin cloak of forest and woodland covered 6.2 billion hectares of the planet. In contrast, forests now cover just over 3.6 billion hectares—less than a third of the total ice-free land area of today's world.

Reconciling the long-term need to preserve the Earth's remaining forests with the short-term economic needs of nations to exploit their forests is a most challenging task on the Earth Summit agenda. And the issue is not just crucial for tropical forests of the southern hemisphere; temperate and boreal forests of the north are also at risk.

Tropical troubles

Tropical forest cover has decreased by some 200 million hectares in only the last 10 years; and it continues at an average rate of 11 million hectares annually. Since the 1950s, about half of the Earth's tropical forests have been felled.

A full quarter of Central America's rainforests has been cleared in the last 25 years to provide grazing land for cattle, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reports, in part to supply cheap meat for fast food hamburgers in North America.

Since the beginning of this century, Thailand has lost more than half of its forest cover, while Côte d'Ivoire's tropical forests shrank from 15 million to just 4 million hectares by 1980.

These devastating losses directly affect the world's biological diversity, causing mass extinction of huge numbers of plant and animal species. In Madagascar, thought to have more endemic species than any other country, poor rural farmers clear an average of 250,000 hectares of forest each year. As some 80 per cent of its forest cover disappears, so have dozens of animals found nowhere else on earth—the dodo, giant tortoises, the dwarf hippopotamus and the elephant bird, at nearly 10 feet tall possibly the largest bird that ever lived.

Tropical deforestation is pursued primarily to meet the basic needs of the poor. A 1980 Food and Agriculture Organization/UNEP survey estimated that 45 per cent of all cleared tropical forests made more "growing room" for farmers practising shifting agriculture, some 70 per cent in tropical Africa.

Forests are the main source of fuel in many developing countries. For example, wood provides more

The sky is held up by the trees. If the forest disappears the sky, which is the roof of the world, collapses. Nature and man then perish together.

—From an Amerindian legend

than 80 per cent of energy in such nations as Ethiopia, Mali, Nepal, Sudan and Tanzania.

A programme on the social dynamics of deforestation in developing countries, conducted by the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), has concluded that the policies of national governments and international organizations also play a major role in deforestation.

"Badly conceived official populations transfers, resettlement schemes, road building, dam construction, mining, and unsustainable and wasteful timber harvest practices have directly accelerated deforestation in many developing countries", UNRISD reported in November 1991.

Fiscal and financial incentives to promote export crops also contribute to deforestation which affects "the weaker sections of the population most", in particular forest dwellers, ethnic minorities, the landless, and women and children.

Deforestation also affects hundreds of millions of people through increased floods and soil erosion. Before the southern slopes of the Himalayas were stripped of trees, Bangladesh was struck by overwhelming floods only once every half century, according to UNEP. By the 1980s, Bangladesh suffered from a major flood every four years.

Goodbye to virgin tracts

Globally, deforestation is directly related to climate change. As forests are burned, carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" invade the atmosphere, a problem exacerbated by the planet's consequent inability to absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

Virgin woods—old-growth woods that have never been cut down—are being cleared in North America at the same rates as tropical forests. A third of old-growth temperate forests has been lost since pre-agricultural times, compared with less than a fifth of old-growth tropical forests.

Indeed, the industrialized North has been clearing its forests for some 1,500 years, beginning with the Roman Empire expansion across Europe. Massive clearings were undertaken to grow crops and obtain fuelwood and timber. That trend continued up to the last century to such an extent that a wood shortage existed in the 16th century.

Even though vast areas have been replanted, these new-growth forests are considered a "second-best successor" to the original, as there is no guarantee that what the planet gets back in terms of species composition will approximate what has been removed.

About half of original European forest cover has disappeared. And despite outcries from conservationists, the last of pristine timberlands in the United States was being cleared—at a dizzying rate of 24,000 hectares per year—during the 1980s.

The demands of the industrialized North continue to drive deforestation outside their own borders, Shridath Ramphal reports in *Our Country, the Planet*. He says: "Japan accounts for more than 53 per cent of the world's tropical hardwood trade; wood is its biggest import after oil. The United States accounts for 15 per cent, with demand expected to double by the end of the century. Europe as a whole accounts for 32 per cent of the hardwood trade."

Moreover, temperate and boreal forests are severely degraded in many industrialized regions because of air pollution. More than a third of Europe's 141 million hectares of forest is damaged to varying degrees, while vast tracts in Central Europe are considered beyond help.

Forestry principles

In addition to Agenda 21 action programmes to prevent deforestation, UNCED expects to produce a statement of principles for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, both natural and planted, and including all regions and climates. The non-legally binding principles, which require extensive negotiations at the Earth Summit, could form the basis for post-Summit negotiations on a forest convention.

Agenda 21

Deforestation

- **Combat deforestation by sustaining the multiple roles and functions of all types of forests, forest land, and woodlands.**
- **Enhance forest rehabilitation, afforestation, reforestation and other rehabilitative activities.**
- **Realize the vast potential of forests as a resource for development by incorporating the full social, economic and ecologic values of trees and forest lands into national accounting systems.**
- **Improve ways to assess the impact of forest programmes and commercial activities on the quality and extent of forest resources, land available for afforestation, and land tenure, with specific emphasis on the participation of rural people.**

UN Photo 158366/J. Isaac

Land Resources:

A fistful of dust, fragile ecosystems

> ***Land** (lănd), n. . . 6. Econ. All those elements in the wealth of a nation supposed to be furnished by nature.*
>
> *—Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1961*

Land not only provides the solid earth beneath our feet; it nurtures the food we eat, holds the water we drink, stores the minerals we use to make our tools, and produces fuels. It is a diverse resource comprised of forests and deserts, mountains and shores, cropland and pasture.

Human beings have radically reshaped the earth's natural land cover, as well as its soil, minerals, water and wildlife. UNEP reports: "The often indiscriminate destruction of forests and woodlands, the overgrazing of vegetation by increasing numbers of livestock, and the improper management of agricultural land have all resulted in the degradation of extensive land areas."

About 15 per cent of the earth's land has been destroyed or degraded by human activity, especially overgrazing, deforestation and intensive agriculture.

"Among the most important causes of environmental deterioration is the increasing pressure on resources caused by patterns and increasing rates of consumption and increasing numbers of people", the UN Secretary-General has stated. "In these circumstances, conflicts in the use of land and resources intensify."

Encroaching deserts

Drylands, balanced precariously between productive land and desert, are especially prone to deterioration from poor land management and high population growth. Degraded drylands become man-made deserts, devoid of fertility and susceptible to erosion. Once triggered, the process of desertification is almost impossible to reverse.

About a quarter of the world's land area and a sixth of its population are affected by desertification. This represents some 70 per cent of all agriculturally-used drylands, amounting to 3.6 billion hectares.

"The most obvious impact of desertification, in addition to widespread poverty, is the degradation of 3.3 billion hectares of the total area of rangeland", a draft for Agenda 21 states, citing a decline in soil fertility and soil structure on 47 per cent of the dryland areas, and degradation of irrigated cropland.

As much as two fifths of non-desert land in Africa is at risk of encroachment, as is one third in Asia and one fifth in Latin America, the World Bank reports. In the Arab region, which can grow crops on only 4 per cent of its land, some 30 per cent of irrigated land, 60 per cent of rainfed cropland and 80 per cent of rangeland are affected. A most serious consequence is the growing food deficit.

The drylands of Africa—particularly the Sudano-Sahelian region, northern Africa and the countries adjacent to the Kalahari and Namib deserts—are plagued by prolonged and recurrent droughts. This crisis peaked in Africa in the mid-1980s, affecting up to 35 million people. African ministers and their northern counterparts, at a high-level meeting in April 1992, had called for a global convention to combat desertification. This proposal may be further considered at Rio.

Parched soil, eroding slopes

Intensive agriculture can destroy, in a few years, soil that has taken up to a few million years to form.

Millions of hectares of land may

be sterilized by salt, sapped of nutrients or poisoned by chemicals through excessive use of irrigation, pesticides and monoculture. Worldwide, some 25 billion tons of topsoil each year are washed or blown away. Erosion affects half the cropland in the United States and India, some 80 per cent in El Salvador.

Mountains are also threatened by increasing populations forced to scrape a living from their fragile slopes. Soil washes down their abused slopes, causing landslides, ruining wildlife habitats, clogging rivers and causing downstream floods.

In Nepal's eastern hills, nearly 40 per cent of the land has been abandoned as the topsoil vanishes. The human cost is significant.

When rapid population growth combines with stubborn poverty, farmers and herders move onto marginal and fragile land, not only to mountain slopes but also forest and desert margins.

As plains are grazed bare by voracious herds and forests are cut down for firewood, exposed lands dry hard, unable to absorb rainfall. Gradually the degraded land is robbed of its only source of fertilizer as dwindling fuelwood supplies force people to burn dung. Soon these marginal lands erode and turn to desert. And a human migration begins that often ends in poverty-ridden urban shanty towns and slums.

10 million by year 2000

If present trends continue, the world will have lost 10 million hectares of cultivated land by the year 2000. Developing countries alone lost 40 per cent of their arable land between 1970 and 1990, at the same time their population continued to escalate. The number of chronically hungry people worldwide increased from about 460 million in 1970 to about 550 million in 1990; it may reach 650 million by the year 2000.

Desertification and deforestation are not the only results of poorly managed agriculture. Burning fields, forests, dung and other "biomass" produces carbon dioxide and other gases which pollute the atmosphere. Livestock and animal waste also release gases. Argentina, Brazil, China, India and the United States each produce more than 1 million tons of such emissions a year.

Excessive irrigation leaches nutrients from the soil. In arid lands, such as the Middle East, it depletes groundwater resources. In coastal areas, fish and wildlife habitats are lost as wetlands are drained for agricultural or other uses.

Land inequities

Another problem is that while women are significant producers of food in many countries, due to gender discrimination, they often may not be permitted to own land or participate in training programmes on more efficient land use. "Any program on sustainable agriculture must face this issue squarely and ensure that inequities and inefficiencies are resolved," UNCED declares.

While desertification projects have greatly multiplied over the past decade, the UN Secretary-General reported in 1991: "Not enough is being accomplished and progress is too slow for there to be any real success in overcoming drought and desertification problems."

An UNCED report concludes that the only way to ensure sustainable use of land and natural resources is through a radical rethinking of the development process and the role of land within this process.

"Land and natural resources must be recognized for what they are: scarce resources and the basic capital on which development is based."

Agenda 21

Degraded land

- **Integrate environmental, social and economic considerations in allocating land resources so that the appropriate choices and trade-offs are made to maximize sustainable productivity.**
- **Strengthen monitoring systems for regions prone to desertification and drought; intensify soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities.**
- **Improve sustainable management of rangelands and promote alternatives to traditional agro-pastoral livelihoods in fragile areas.**
- **Develop a legal instrument for international cooperation to prevent desertification.**
- **Create comprehensive drought preparedness and relief schemes, and encourage popular participation and environmental education.**
- **Strengthen knowledge about mountain ecosystems; promote integrated watershed development to prevent soil erosion and maintain the ecological balance.**
- **Enhance food production and food security; ensure that women, youth, indigenous peoples and small farmers have equitable access to resources, technologies and financing for sustainable agriculture.**
- **Increase farm productivity and rural incomes, while ensuring that risks to the ecosystem are minimized and soil fertility is protected. Conserve and sustainably use plant and animal genetic resources to guarantee the survival of breeds at risk.**
- **Protect plants from pests in a manner which minimizes the use of pesticides. Promote the use of cost-effective and renewable energy sources in rural areas.**

Oceans:
Vessels of life, now contaminated

*Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean—roll!
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain;
Man marks the earth with ruin—his control
Stops with the shore.*

—Lord Byron in "Childe Harold"

UN Photo 155009/P Sudhakaran

Alas, the world's oceans and seas no longer roll beyond our control: the long fingers of human activity reach, even from hundreds of miles inland, beyond the shore and beneath the waves to litter the ocean floor, discolour the tides and empty those deep blue, mysterious waters of their wealth of species.

"Human fingerprints are found everywhere in the oceans", reports UNCED Secretary-General Strong. "Chemical contamination and litter can be observed from the poles to the tropics and from beaches to abyssal depths."

The watery depths of the world's oceans exert a powerful influence over energy sources, climate and weather, and contain more life than any other environment.

Humans have long used the oceans and coasts to obtain food, for recreation and as a bottomless rubbish dump. We also use it indirectly; more than three quarters of all pollution entering the world's oceans comes from land-based sources.

Industrial waste and municipal sewage are discharged into rivers and flow into the sea. Pesticides and agricultural fertilizers are washed from the land; together with oil from vehicles and salt from roads, they all eventually find their way to the ocean, polluting the waters and poisoning the fish.

"The malaise is indicated by spread of algal blooms, coral bleaching, epidemics, oil pollution, and by the decline in the quality and quantity of marine food resources", reports UNEP. "In general, the state of the marine environment in these areas has deteriorated over the past two decades", particularly along the coast.

Suffering coast

Some of the most diverse, productive and fragile ecosystems are found where earth meets ocean. Coastal waters hold 90 per cent of the ocean's live harvest. Coral reefs—the tropical forests of the seas—are home to a third of the world's fish species. Mangrove swamps and other wetlands, also rich in biodiversity, are an important bulwark between land and sea.

About 60 per cent of the world's population—some 3 billion people—live on or within 100 miles of the shoreline. And the coastal zone population is expected to double within the next 20 to 30 years, UNCED has warned.

"Coastal waters are the sinks for nearly all human-generated pollution", states *Caring for the Earth, A Strategy for Sustainable Living,* published jointly by UNEP, the World Wide Fund For Nature and the World Conservation Union. "More than 90 per cent of all chemicals, refuse and other materials entering coastal waters remain there in sediments, wetlands, fringing reefs and other coastal ecosystems."

Watery waste dump

Sewage and toxic wastes are often dumped directly into the sea, in the misguided belief that the oceans' self-cleaning mechanism will eliminate health hazards. It doesn't.

Our oceans also become receptacles for some 6.5 million tons of litter each year. Synthetics and plastics can persist in the water for up to 50 years. "Most beaches near population centres are littered with plastic residues washed up from the sea, contributed by rivers, ships and outfalls, dumped by illegal refuse operators or left behind by beach users", states UNEP.

Marine pollution is exacerbated by shipping and sea-based activities. Most of the 600,000 tons of oil entering the oceans each year is discharged as a result of normal shipping operations. While only a quarter of oil pollution comes from major accidents, maritime disasters are particularly damaging in enclosed seas, as in the 1989 Exxon Valdez accident in Alaska's Prince William Sound. Off-shore oil drilling, which produces mud containing benzine, sodium and other contaminants, also threatens the marine environment.

The 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is the first comprehensive international law covering all forms of marine pollution, as well as regulating commercial use of the seas and providing a framework for fisheries management. It has not yet, however, entered into force.

Foolhardy fishing

Local fishing communities have long lived in harmony with the environment, producing food for both themselves and towns inland.

In contrast, large-scale commercial fisheries tend to over-harvest marine resources in order to make a profit. And they neither employ local workers nor feed local people. The annual marine catch, at 98 million tons in 1990, is considered close to the maximum possible yield. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that an annual catch of more than 100 million tons risks substantial depletion of fish stocks worldwide.

While 85 per cent of the world's fishing grounds are within 200 miles of the shore, high seas fisheries, which represent 5 per cent of the global catch, also over-exploit marine life. In 1991, the General Assembly voted for an all-out ban by the end of 1992 on high seas pelagic driftnet fishing, which indiscriminately tangles fish, squids, birds and mammals.

"The last two centuries have witnessed the depletion of a number of populations of marine birds, reptiles and mammals, and in some cases their recovery, once protected", reports UNCED. Whales, dolphins, seals and polar bears have all been threatened by the over-exploitation of marine resources.

Vulnerable islands

Islands are a special case in the world of environment and development. They encompass all the problems and challenges of a coastal zone, concentrated in a limited land area.

Global warming is of particular concern: if sea-levels rise, low-lying coastal areas and island nations, such as the Maldives—an archipelago in the Indian Ocean—could disappear altogether.

Tourist facilities common to islands can also harm the very environment that has lured them there in the first place. Bulldozed land is left vulnerable to erosion, and loose soil washed into the sea may choke coral growing offshore.

"From all this devastation", says Shridath Ramphal in *Our Country, The Planet,* ocean habitats "recover very slowly". UNEP's "regional seas" programme has coordinated and catalyzed action to improve the marine environment and make better use of its resources since the mid-1970s. But experts have warned that deterioration of the world's oceans and coasts will continue unless strong coordinated national and international action is taken.

Says Ramphal: "The marine environment, for all its vastness, remains at our mercy."

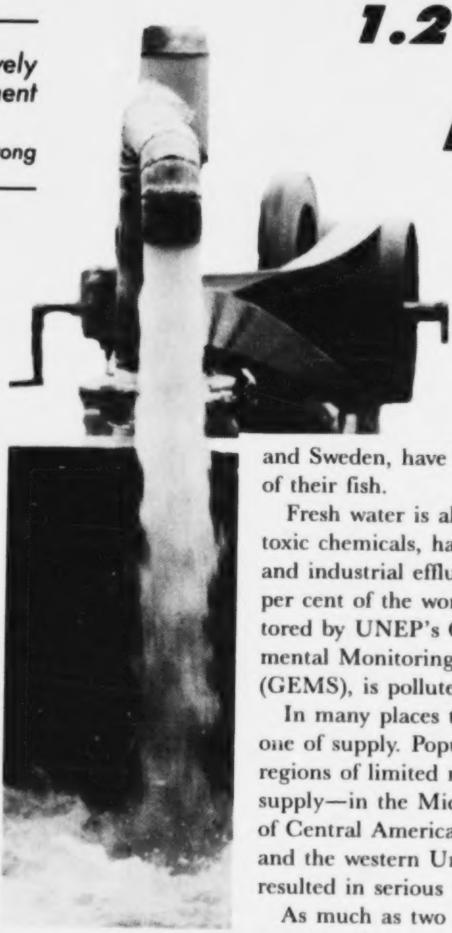
Agenda 21

Oceans and seas

- **Take a preventative approach to project planning for coastal areas; develop economic incentives to apply clean technologies; improve living standards of coastal populations.**
- **Increase the potential of marine living resources to meet human nutritional needs; maintain or restore populations of marine species at sustainable yield levels; use selective fishing to minimize waste and bycatch.**
- **Collect data to predict the effects of climate change on the marine environment, particularly the impact of sea-level rise on islands and low-lying coastal areas.**

Fresh Water: None for 1.2 billion people

There can be no issue that more conclusively demonstrates the integrated nature of environment and development than that of fresh water.
—UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong



UN Photo 152354/U. Golani

Water is the ultimate of renewable resources, endlessly recycling itself through a natural process which continuously transports vast quantities around the globe, removing water here, renewing it there. The coffee you drank today may have contained water molecules that were part of Julius Ceasar's bath, or which helped quench the thirst of a dinosaur millions of years earlier. Yet, only a tiny fraction is readily accessible. Most is in the form of salt water in the oceans. And almost all fresh water is out of reach, frozen in glaciers or buried deep underground.

Our supply of fresh water is also encroached upon by human development: Atmospheric pollution, toxic chemicals and wastes have a major impact on the quality of water, as do agricultural needs, deforestation and climate change.

Water quality is a particular worry in the developing world. About 1.2 billion people—over a quarter of the world's population—lack clean and safe water, while almost 1.8 billion people live without adequate sanitation. A third of all deaths, and 80 per cent of all disease in developing countries, have been linked to contaminated water.

Thousands of lakes in Scandinavia, Scotland, the United States and Canada have been polluted through air-borne pollutants—a major source of water contamination. Many, especially in Norway and Sweden, have lost some or all of their fish.

Agenda 21

Water quality, supply

- **Protect water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems in a holistic manner, based on a balanced consideration of the needs of people and the environment.**
- **Provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation, on a sustainable basis.**
- **Manage water for urban development and use water efficiently for sustainable food production and rural development.**
- **Increase understanding of the impact of climate change on water resources in order to facilitate the implementation of national countermeasures that may be required.**

Fresh water is also polluted by toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes and industrial effluents. Some 10 per cent of the world's rivers, monitored by UNEP's Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS), is polluted in this way.

In many places the problem is one of supply. Population growth in regions of limited natural water supply—in the Middle East, parts of Central America, North Africa and the western United States—has resulted in serious water shortages.

As much as two thirds of Africa may be subject to drought each year. Traditional agricultural practices, sufficient to handle this problem in the past, cannot keep up with today's population growth. Poorly planned modern irrigation systems can waste volumes of water and contaminate much of the rest.

The 500 participants at a high-level expert meeting in Ireland—the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin, 26-31 January)—saw the emerging global water picture as "critical".

"Scarcity and misuse of fresh water pose a serious and growing threat to sustainable development and protection of the environment. Human health and welfare, food security, industrial development and the ecosystems on which they depend, are all at risk."

Toxic Wastes:
Poisoning the planet

Everything which is produced eventually becomes waste, it is only a matter of time.

—International Labour Organisation

The durability, toxicity and sheer amounts of waste products throughout the world have become overwhelming. Mounds of garbage generated by profligate consumption; hazardous substances, including acids, metals, radioactive wastes; chemicals created by industry—even human waste—all put environmental and human health at risk.

We know this from experience; some 2,500 people died and many thousands more were injured in the 1984 Union Carbide chemical accident in Bhopal, India; several hundred people died, and food crops throughout Europe became inedible, following a 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

The most dangerous concentrations of wastes come from large industry: petroleum refiners, chemical and pesticide manufacturers, miners, and makers of synthetics and weapons.

Worldwide, some 338 million tonnes of hazardous wastes are produced each year. Typically buried in landfills or dumped into leaky surface containers, corrosive acids, toxic metals and other such poisons can percolate into soil and water resources. They are also dumped at sea or burned in improperly-fitted incinerators, which allow toxic fumes and ash to escape.

People working and living near danger zones suffer from increased cancers, nerve disorders, miscarriages, birth defects and other irreversible afflictions.

Human activities also rely on growing numbers of chemicals, most of which have never been adequately tested to determine how hazardous they are to human or ecological health.

PCBs used in industrialized countries have been transported as far as the Arctic, where they have contaminated fish, animals and humans.

Most developing countries have no toxic control laws, making them cheap and easy dumping grounds for products banned in industrialized countries. Europe sends an average of about 120,000 tonnes of hazardous waste to the "third world" each year.

Human sewage contains disease-causing viruses, bacteria and other pathogens, while solid wastes from consumer durables, packaging and other everyday rubbish also have an impact on health and ecology. Furthermore, because much of human garbage does not degrade, it will affect the human and natural environments long after those who generated it are gone.

Agenda 21
Chemicals, wastes

- **Accelerate international assessment of chemical risks; harmonize classification and labelling; establish risk reduction programmes.**
- **Promote hazardous waste prevention and minimization; prevent illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes through effective monitoring, enforcement and imposition of severe penalties.**
- **Ensure that radioactive wastes are safely managed, transported, stored and disposed of.**
- **Minimize solid wastes by modifying production and consumption patterns; maximize recycling; and promote sound sewage disposal and treatment.**

Securing the future:
Implementing Agenda 21

The real question is political will.

—UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong

The measures proposed in Agenda 21 are "indispensable" to a more sustainable future, UNCED Secretary-General Strong has said. But securing the future of the planet, "the fundamental security issue", cannot be bought "on the cheap".

Indeed, Agenda 21's price tag—between $400 billion and $600 billion a year—is "very modest" in relation to a trillion dollars a year spent on traditional military security, says Mr. Strong.

Negotiations over the financial resources and mechanisms required to implement Agenda 21 were not conclusive at the final UNCED preparatory session. The debate has split along the North-South divide, between the industrialized nations—who favour financing Agenda 21 through bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms—and the Group of 77 developing countries—who want a separate, specific global fund, as well as commitments that financing will not be obtained through reallocation of existing official development assistance (ODA).

A possible compromise could come through the Global Environment Facility, a fund established in 1990 under the auspices of the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, to help developing countries finance environmental projects that deal with biodiversity, ozone depletion, climate change and international waters.

UNCED is also looking for commitments from donor countries to fund Agenda 21 for $125 billion per year in grants or loans, some $70 billion more than current ODA levels. The most optimistic predictions now reach no more than $10 billion a year. Yet Mr. Strong sees even this prospect as a "first and important step forward".

Many innovative approaches to financing are being considered, including developing country debt reduction in return for sustainability commitments, along the lines of "debt-for-nature" swaps; imposition of environment-related taxes, such as a carbon tax or non-renewable energy tax; a system of tradeable emission permits; and mobilization of higher levels of private funding from individuals, corporations and foundations.

Also under consideration is increasing replenishment of the International Development Association—the concessional financing body of the World Bank—with additional funds considered an "Earth Increment", to fund sustainable development.

Transferring technology

If developing countries are to sustain economic growth and development without the same kind of environmental pollution characteristic of the North, they must have access to less destructive industrial technologies. However, these new technologies are often in the hands of the private sector, which holds the patents and intellectual property rights.

"As long as developed countries guard these rights, less developed countries will be at a disadvantage", an UNCED background paper reports. On the other hand, some developed countries say that "if businesses are not allowed to reap the financial rewards from their inventions, they will have no motivation to pursue such research in the future".

The creation of incentives to stimulate technology transfer by companies has been approved for Agenda 21. However, the terms of this technology transfer, intellectual property rights and the possible creation of a code of conduct on such matters were unresolved.

Beyond Rio

According to provisions approved by the final preparatory session, a new body will be created to continue UNCED's work, either in the form of a high-level sustainable development commission, reporting directly to the General Assembly on matters of substance and through the Economic and Social Council on coordination, or as a new committee, which would report to the Assembly through the Council.

Also approved to facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21 were programmes aimed at capacity building, education and public awareness, information for decision-making, and strengthening science for sustainable development.

Finding the means and mechanisms to implement Agenda 21 "requires a rethinking of priorities", UNCED Secretary-General Strong has warned. "The survival of the planet must be given priority consideration not only in terms of political commitment but in financial terms as well."

A Look Back . . . From Stockholm to Rio

Environment and development: 20 years of international action

1972

- The UN Conference on the Human Environment—the Stockholm Conference—puts environment on the global political agenda.
- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is created, along with Earthwatch, an international environmental information network.

1975

- Several global environmental Conventions enter force, including: 1971 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat; 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter; 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- UNEP establishes the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) to acquire data and information needed for the environmentally sound management of the world's natural resources.

1976

- The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) establishes a network of biosphere reserves to protect endangered species; it now numbers more than 300 reserves in 76 countries.
- The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution is negotiated under UNEP auspices to become the first in a series of efforts to improve the environment of regional seas.
- The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals is created by UNEP to collect and disseminate information on hazardous chemicals.

1980

- The World Conservation Strategy, aimed at conserving the planet's living resources, is launched by UNEP, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the World Wildlife Fund.

1982

- The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is adopted to set up a comprehensive new legal regime for the sea and oceans, including protection and preservation of the marine environment. The Convention has yet to enter into force.

1983

- Several Conventions enter into force: The 1973 International Maritime Organization's Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution—the so-called "Acid Rain" Convention—becoming the first multilateral treaty to control air pollution; and the 1979 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

1985

- The International Tropical Timber Agreement, reached in Geneva to provide an effective framework for sustainable utilization of tropical forests, enters into force.

1986

- Following the tragic and far-reaching Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident is adopted and quickly enters into force.

1987

- The World Commission on Environment and Development, formed by the General Assembly in 1983, issues its landmark report, *Our Common Future*, which put the concept of sustainable development before the world's political leaders.
- The 1986 Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency enters into force.

1988

- The 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer enters into force.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP, begins a study of global warming and will provide the basis for preparations of a framework convention on climate change.
- The WMO's World Weather Watch celebrates its 25th anniversary. Established in 1963, it is a global system for the collection, analysis and distribution of weather and other environmental information.

1989

- The General Assembly decides to convene a UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, on the 20th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference.
- The 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer enters into force and is subsequently strengthened by an agreement to stop production and consumption of CFCs by the year 2000.

1990

- The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) *Human Development Report* breaks new ground with a Human Development Index, ranking countries by a single measure combining life expectancy, adult literacy and basic purchasing power. Japan ranks first and Sierra Leone last.
- The Global Environment Facility is established under the aegis of the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP as a pilot programme to fund environment projects in developing countries.

1991

- "Earth Pledge" is signed by several dignitaries, including UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, commiting them to individual and collective action to improve the earth's environment.

1992

- The 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal enters into force.
- UNCED—the Earth Summit—will strive to place issues of environment and development, through sustainable development, at the centre of policy-making and economic decision-making worldwide (3-14 June, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

Disarmament Conference concludes first part of annual session

UN Photo 179353

Opening the session on 21 January is Conference President Naste Calovski of Yugoslavia.

A worldwide ban on chemical weapons—the goal of UN negotiations for many years—was the centre-piece of deliberations during the first part of the 1992 session of the Conference on Disarmament (21 January-26 March, Geneva). In the view of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the world's single negotiating body on disarmament stood "on the threshold of a major achievement of multilateral diplomacy".

In a message read out by Conference Secretary-General Miljan Komatina, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the end of the cold war had opened up "unprecedented opportunities" for the world community to seek a new system of international relations, in which the "costly burden of arms accumulation was replaced by efforts to ensure the security of all nations at substantially reduced levels of armaments and armed forces".

He strongly urged the Conference to "maintain the momentum and exert its utmost effort" to achieve a final agreement on the proposed ban during the 1992 session.

René Felber, President of the Swiss Confederation and Chief of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, addressing the Conference on 26 March, proposed Geneva as the site for an organization to be established under a chemical weapons convention. Switzerland was also ready to provide a special contribution of 2.5 million Swiss francs towards financing infrastructure costs at Geneva during the transition period and was prepared to commit an equivalent amount towards training inspectors of the future organization.

The 39-member body, which takes decisions by consensus, adopted its agenda and programme of work for 1992 and re-established its three subsidiary bodies: Ad Hoc Committees on chemical weapons; radiological weapons; and security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States.

The Conference agenda items are: a nuclear-test ban; cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; chemical weapons; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; and a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

In other action, Vicente Berasategui was named Conference Secretary-General and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, replacing Mr. Komatina.

Chemical weapons

The 1991 Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Serguei Batsanov of the Russian Federation, reported that there was now a "realistic prospect" for the successful completion in 1992 of negotiations on the draft convention banning chemical weapons.

To help achieve that goal, a draft model compromise convention was presented on 19 March by Gareth Evans, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia. He noted the growing risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular chemical weapons, and said the stakes were "as high as they could be", adding that a completed convention would be "the most important multilateral arms control and disarmament achievement in history''.

His country had not sought to ''establish an alternative negotiating process'', nor did it intend the text ''as an alternative to the rolling text''. It just formed the ''basis for further refinement''. He said that 80 per cent of it was an ''embodiment, in treaty format, of all the Conference's achievements to date'', while the remaining 20 per cent represented a ''model for compromises'', which was not yet in agreed language, but was based on known positions.

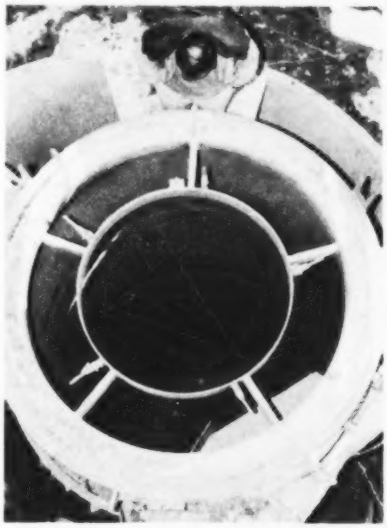
Verification Annex

Central to the text was the ''Verification Annex'', in which Australia had sought to ''strike a balance between effective verification and excessive intrusiveness''—a complex and delicate matter under discussion. With regard to another issue of concern—the problem of old or abandoned chemical weapons stocks—Australia had introduced the concept of ''other toxic munitions and devices'', which should not be regarded as chemical weapons under the convention.

The Australian initiative was a ''major contribution to the early achievement of a consensus in the negotiations'', said Gerard Errera of France. Celso Amorim of Brazil, speaking also on behalf of Argentina, said the two countries welcomed the draft and were ''prepared to support those parts of it that could be taken up as acceptable compromises''.

Together with the rolling text, the draft could be used ''as a basis to search for a compromise on the remaining unresolved issues'', said Soemadi Brotodiningrat of Indonesia. Stephen Ledogar of the United States saw in it an ''opportunity to break the negotiating patterns of the past, to shift to more productive ways of thinking and working and to achieve a text to which all could subscribe''. Tessa Solesby of the United Kingdom said the text was a major contribution to the ''final push'' needed by delegations to achieve a final agreement. It gave them an ''overall picture of elements for final bargaining''.

Although not all the delegations were satisfied with the draft, the Conference welcomed the initiative and courage shown by Australia. Adolf von Wagner of Germany, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, said the draft would have the ''most positive and constructive effect'' and should be looked upon as a ''possible accelerated refinement of the rolling text''. The Conference was ''on a good track to produce a convention on chemical weapons this year'', he concluded.



UN Photo 159082/H. Arvidsson

Highlights from debate

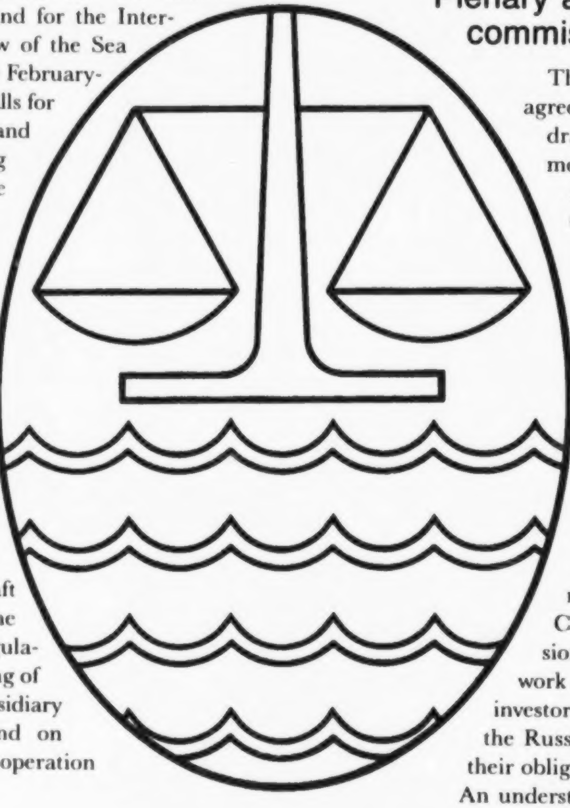
The Netherlands proposed inclusion of the question of ''transparency in armaments'' as a separate item in the Conference agenda, after the UN had established a Register of Conventional Arms on 1 January. Hendrik Wagenmakers said that as a confidence- and security-building measure of global dimension, transparency stood ''in its own right as a completely new building block for arms control and disarmament''.

Nuclear disarmament and the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation continued to be the focus of debate. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, said that States which contravened international law and endeavoured to acquire the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction, should be ''threatened with the most stringent sanctions'', and the Security Council should view that as a ''focal point of its future work''.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev of the Russian Federation proposed placing nuclear weapons on a ''zero alert status'', keeping nuclear-weapons delivery vehicles and warheads separately, and favoured activization of the Conference work on the prohibition of nuclear tests and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. He added that it was ''for Russia and the United States to make a major contribution to resolving all issues related to nuclear disarmament''. Other nuclear Powers could ''join in at a later stage'', once the nuclear arsenals had been made comparable.

Several delegations welcomed China's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a ''major achievement'' and the announcement made by France at the Security Council summit meeting on 31 January that it had decided to ratify Additional Protocol No. 1 to the Treaty of Tlatelolco on the denuclearization of Latin America; the measures taken by Argentina and Brazil, including their accord on the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and their safeguards agreement, as well as that of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, with the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the proposal made by the President of Egypt for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Law of the Sea body calls for 'friendly and positive attitude' in negotiations



The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea concluded its spring session (24 February-13 March, Kingston) amidst calls for an early conclusion of its work and the resolution of outstanding issues before the entry into force of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Training programmes of Japan and France, proposed in compliance with their obligations as registered pioneer investors, were approved.

Criteria was established for the selection of trainees in such disciplines as geology, geophysics and electronic engineering.

Progress was made on a draft mining code to be used by the Authority, on the rules and regulations for the efficient functioning of the future Authority and its subsidiary organs and the Tribunal, and on arrangements for the early operation of the Enterprise.

The Commission granted observer status to Aruba. A resumed tenth session was scheduled from 10 to 21 August in New York, with a view to concluding the Commission's work and drafting a final report.

In a closing statement, Commission Chairman José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde called for representatives to show restraint and maintain a "friendly and positive attitude in negotiating particularly stubborn issues". He said there had been a number of "negative developments" at the current session, which had "proved to be the most difficult session held thus far".

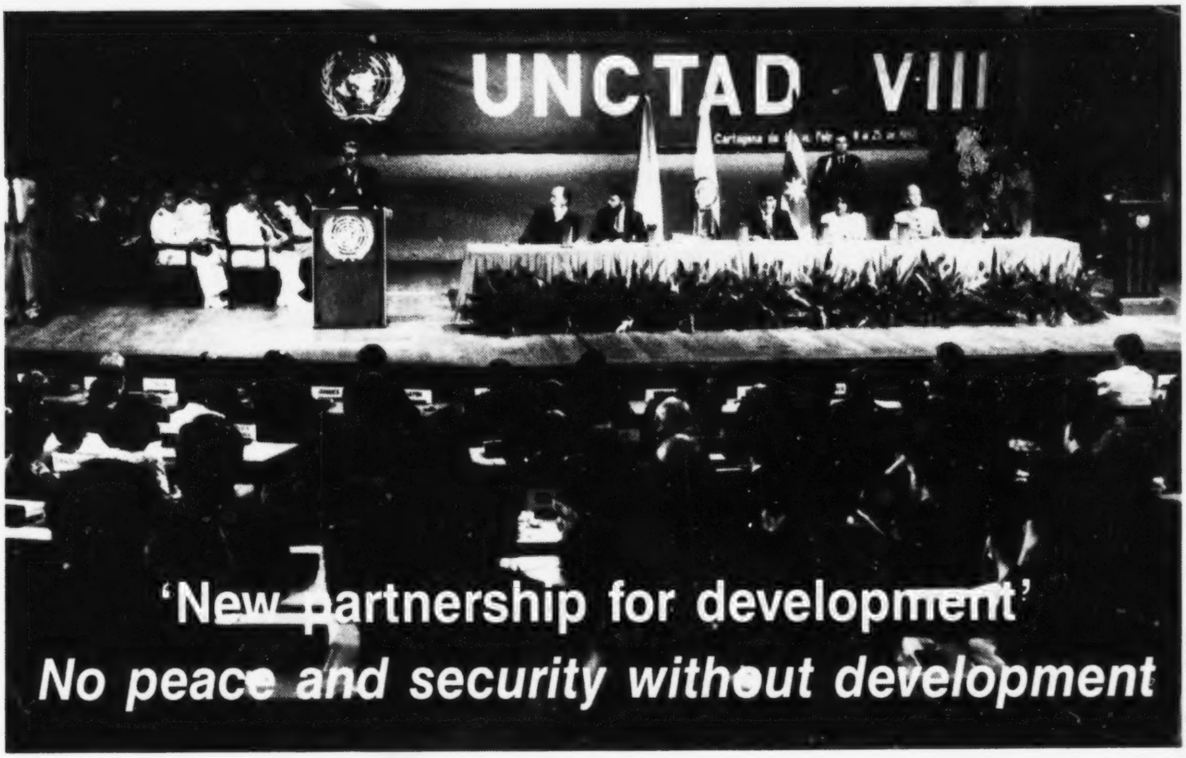
The Convention, which was opened for signature in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982 and received 159 signatures before the period for signature ended on 9 December 1984, now has 49 ratifications and two accessions (51). It will enter into force one year after the receipt of the sixtieth ratification or accession.

A representative of the Group of Eleven, also known as the Friends of the Convention (Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) said that only nine more ratifications were required for the Convention's entry into force, and urged participants to concentrate and step up their efforts to "find solutions to the problems which have for so long prevented the wide acceptance of the Convention".

Plenary and special commissions

The Commission's plenary agreed on final texts for the draft headquarters agreement between the Authority and the Government of Jamaica and the draft protocol on the Authority's privileges and immunities. It also approved all but 1 of 59 articles of a draft agreement on the relationship between the Authority and the UN. The article on reciprocal representation, in particular the question of observers, was still being negotiated. The General Committee of the Commission evaluated the preparatory work of registered pioneer investors—India, France, Japan and the Russian Federation—to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. An understanding on the fulfilment of obligations by the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association, another registered pioneer investor, was approved.

More specific, technical issues were dealt with by the Commission's four special bodies: Special Commission 1 recommends measures to alleviate problems of developing land-based producers of minerals adversely affected by seabed mining of those minerals; Special Commission 2 is laying the groundwork for the early operation of the Enterprise—the seabed mining arm of the future Authority; Special Commission 3 is preparing rules for exploration and exploitation of the International Seabed Area (the so-called "mining code"); and Special Commission 4 is responsible for practical arrangements for the establishment of the Tribunal.



'New partnership for development'

No peace and security without development

UN Photo 179329

Acknowledging the existence of an "unprecedented opportunity" for the promotion of economic and social progress in all countries of the world, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) decided to establish a "new partnership for development", as delegates concluded the organization's eighth quadrennial session (8-25 February, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia).

In its final document, approved by consensus, UNCTAD VIII stressed that, without economic progress, there could be neither peace nor security. The partnership committed all UNCTAD member States to "engage in a continuous and constructive dialogue inspired by the need to achieve a more efficient and equitable world economy".

The document includes: a concise political declaration entitled "The Spirit of Cartagena"; a programme document—"A New Partnership For Development: The Cartagena Commitment"; a note on a proposed world commodity conference; and a message to the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The new partnership, the Conference declared, should overcome confrontation and foster a climate of genuine cooperation and solidarity. It was equally important to "strengthen national and international policies and multilateral cooperation to adapt to the new realities".

Development must be a priority item on the international agenda, delegates agreed, and UNCTAD "must play a highly significant role in the new partnership for economic development", as it provides the "most appropriate focal point, within the United Nations proper, for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in key areas including trade, finance, investment, services and technology".

The Conference called for reform of UNCTAD machinery and working methods, and for strengthened capabilities to address the economic and development problems of all countries, particularly developing countries. Moreover, the fight against poverty was given a predominant role in the new mandate.

World commodity conference

The Conference also decided by consensus that the UNCTAD Secretary-General should hold consultations on a world conference on commodities. Subject to a positive outcome of such consultations and

Accelerating development: UNCTAD reports

The democratization of political structures is essential for broad-based development—that is a distinctive leitmotif of the report prepared by the UNCTAD Secretary-General, Kenneth Dadzie, to UNCTAD VIII.

His report calls for "greater accountability, transparency in decision-making and the rule of law", and urges both developing and developed countries to seize the opportunity provided by the Conference to devise innovative policy solutions to long-standing problems of growth and development.

Entitled "Accelerating the Development Process—Challenges for national and international policies in the 1990s", the report was the key background document for UNCTAD VIII. It contains an in-depth analysis of world economic trends at the beginning of the 1990s, considers broad policy responses that could accelerate development, and gives specific policy recommendations in the interrelated fields of resources for development, international trade, technology, services and commodities.

The document finds some "compelling evidence" of the negative impact of structural adjustment programmes on investment, "which is at the heart of the development process", and states that there is relatively limited scope for increasing the domestic savings level in developing countries. However, while noting the need for "more official external resource flows and debt relief", it stresses good management as a "key to a healthier economic climate".

In managing their economic problems, developing countries should not imitate the models so far pursued by industrialized nations, since that might bring an "acute strain" on the global ecology. What is needed is sustainable development, which "calls for change in these models, not for putting a hold on the development process".

Future world economic stability and growth "will depend on higher levels of international economic cooperation for the management of interdependence", which in the past often served to "amplify and speed the transmission of negative impulses in the world economy", the document states.

But if the policies are formulated in a "mutually reinforcing fashion to favour constructive adjustment and adaptation in the world economy", then interdependence can become a "more consistent vehicle of growth and development, cumulating benefits for all in a positive sum game".

UN Photo 179331

Mr. Dadzie.

the deliberations in the Standing Committee on Commodities, the Trade and Development Board—UNCTAD's executive body—should "decide on an invitation to the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene a world conference on commodities under UNCTAD auspices".

In a message of support to UNCED, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June, UNCTAD stated that it was uniquely placed to undertake analysis and build consensus on policies on the interrelated areas of trade and development and environmental protection. It had already taken steps to "integrate the concept of sustainable development into all aspects of UNCTAD's activities". A revitalized UNCTAD could contribute to the implementation of a new action programme on environment.

An 'exceptional moment'

In his first major address on economic issues, the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed that the Conference was taking place at an "exceptional moment", when the course of history had accelerated, "giving rise to great hopes but also to considerable uncertainty".

The disappearance of "competing ideologies and zones of influence" meant that all countries had the "responsibility for promoting mutually advantageous economic and political cooperation".

Trade was the "pulsating heart of the world economy", he went on. "It frees and accelerates growth . . . it creates new opportunities for developing countries to break out of the cycle of underdevelopment. Yet, it is in the field of world trade that the distortions are most pronounced."

Calling for the establishment of a "multilateral trading system which is truly global, liberal, free and open", he stated that only the UN could "design and promote a global integrated approach that would enable the international community to meet the daunting challenges facing humanity today".

President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo of Colombia, also addressing UNCTAD VIII on the opening day, said the world could not afford the "luxury of isolationism". Industrialized nations "must understand that their long-term interests lay in supporting the economic progress, social improvements and political stability of the least developed countries".

In a concluding statement on 25 February, Conference President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia said UNCTAD had "emerged stronger, its mandate renewed and its future assured". Apprehension and pessimism had been overcome, and gradually a "constructive spirit of mutual trust and shared responsibilities" had taken over the Conference.

The Cartagena Commitment, he added, "should lead to taking advantage of science and technology for a fairer, more balanced development of the different regions of the planet".

Challenges and potential for the 1990s

The Conference, in its Cartagena Commitment, stated that the international community faced an unprecedented conjunction of challenges and opportunities, responses to which would shape the outcome of efforts to build a "healthy, secure and equitable world economy".

Although the most important development challenges for the 1990s were the elimination of poverty and the acceleration of economic growth and social development in developing countries on a sustainable long-term basis, the early transformation of the economies of Central and Eastern Europe into "market-based ones would strengthen the emerging new partnership for development".

The conversion of military capacities and technologies to civilian uses would also provide opportunities to "adjust production structures to development priority needs and facilitate new trade, technological and financial flows".

Developed countries had a "major responsibility in the context of growing interdependence to create and sustain a global economic environment favourable to accelerated and sustainable development". They should "mobilize and generate" their national savings so as to "contribute to the level of investable resources necessary to put the global economy on a path of sustainable growth and development".

Those countries should also continue and enhance coordination of macroeconomic policies and positive structural adjustment with a view to "strengthening an open, non-discriminatory and multilateral trading system". In that context, an "early, successful and balanced outcome" of the Uruguay Round was "of crucial importance to stimulate expansion in international trade, as well as growth in the world economy".

The ultimate goal of UNCTAD, according to the Commitment, was to "achieve steady rates of sustained growth" in all countries and accelerate the development of developing countries, "so that all peoples can enjoy economic and social well-being". In that regard, members pledged to strengthen UNCTAD as a forum where all nations participate fully and actively, and cooperate to "build a peaceful, equitable and prosperous world".

1991 Report on LDCs: 'Grounds for hope'

Although the general performance of the economies of the least developed countries (LDCs) in the 1980s presented a "picture of bland stagnation", there are "grounds for hope, and perhaps even for a certain degree of optimism", states *The Least Developed Countries, 1991 Report*, published by UNCTAD in February. This positive outlook is based on the achievement of relatively high growth rates in some LDCs in recent years and, above all, on the newly emerging world political and economic climate.

The prospect for the settlement of many long-standing conflicts and turmoil is much brighter, the Report says. Such a peace dividend is "likely to come in the form of a redirection of national efforts and resources from military pursuits to economic and social development, the removal of the burden of hundreds of thousands of refugees on neighbouring countries, the possibility of strong joint measures with the major international institutions to recreate stability and a climate for new growth, the repatriation of flight capital and skills, improved conditions for agricultural production, security of international transport and the attraction of new capital".

New partnership: what is required

The translation of this concept into "operational terms" requires "mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels", the final document states. It is crucial to ensure the "enhanced participation in the world economy of developing countries, as well as countries undergoing the process of transition to market economies".

That could be achieved through: the betterment of those countries' trade conditions; effective policies in the field of commodities; further evolution of the international debt strategy; rapid and balanced expansion of the services sectors; exploiting the interrelationship between technology and investment; and strong policies for human resources development.

Intensified international cooperation for development involved "fresh approaches to traditional areas", the Conference agreed. Included were: development finance; concerted efforts to fight poverty; special measures to promote developing countries' exports; the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as well as Programme 45: the UN System-wide Plan of Action for Africa; and economic cooperation among developing countries.

Good management

According to the Cartagena Commitment, good management—a crucial element for the success of development efforts—encompasses "govermental action to establish appropriate frameworks and rules of the game for the effective and proper functioning of markets and a healthy climate for economic activity". That includes the provision of necessary physical and social infrastructures, the pursuit of sound macroeconomic policies, and clear legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as transparent processes for rule-setting and decision-making. It also includes efficient institutions for the sound management of resources and the promotion of entrepreneurship and productivity.

Good management, which fosters the "association of effective, efficient, honest, equitable and accountable public administration with individual rights and opportunities", and the eradication of mismanagement and corruption, is an essential condition for sustainable, broad-based development.

At the international level, good management requires a more active and comprehensive cooperation to address issues arising from global economic interdependence. Especially important is the effective coordination of the national policies of those countries having great weight in the world economy. It also calls for "greater transparency and effective participation in these processes by all countries".

Also, urgent measures are required to "arrive at an effective and durable solution to the remaining debt problems" in developing countries. Existing facilities for helping those countries to cope with balance-of-payments difficulties should be "fully utilized and, when appropriate, widened". The International Monetary Fund was encouraged to continue considering the question of further allocations of special drawing rights.

UN Photo 158924/M. Grant

Action to secure mutually supportive efforts at all levels is needed.

Development notes

Sustainable world needs renewable fuels

Current patterns of energy production and use will not lead to a "sustainable world", warned a new expert report considered by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its sixth session (3-14 February, New York). Our current energy production and use accounts for "at least as many global or regional man-made environmental problems as all other human activities combined", it stated.

The health of the planet demands a renewed search for energy alternatives, the experts said. The "flow of renewable energy to the Earth's land surface is thousands of times greater than mankind's present rate of total energy use". Yet these sources at present contribute only 14 to 20 per cent of the total world energy supply.

(On 13 April, the General Assembly renamed this body "the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development". In addition to its current responsibilities, the renamed Committee will assume the energy portion of the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources.)

Preparations started for 1994 Disaster Conference

Progress in national and international programmes designed to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and strengthen disaster preparedness and reduction capacities was discussed by the Scientific and Technical Committee during its third session (16-20 March, Geneva), as it began preparations for the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. Established by the General Assembly in 1989 and charged with developing overall programmes for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990s), the 24-member expert group also stressed the link between the environment and natural disasters.

Camdessus reappointed IMF Chief

Michel Camdessus, 58, has been appointed to serve a second five-year term as Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), beginning 16 January 1992. He had previously served as Governor of the Bank of France (1984-1987) and as Director of the French Treasury (1982-1984).

War is won against screwworm

For their role in helping to successfully eliminate the New World screwworm from African soil, experts from Africa and the Americas were awarded certificates of merit by Idriss Jazairy, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), at the Fund's fifteenth Governing Council, held in Rome on 22 January. The screwworm operation was described as an "exemplary model of fruitful North-South, as well as South-South cooperation".

Mr. Jazairy also paid tribute to all the bilateral and multilateral donors who helped mobilize a total of $55 million to finance the large-scale campaign, whose implementation was entrusted to the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Without rapid response, he added, the parasitic fly "could have decimated livestock and wildlife throughout North Africa, the Middle East, Central Africa and Europe".

The New World screwworm is a fly, the larvae (maggots) of which burrow into the living flesh of warm-blooded animals, including man.

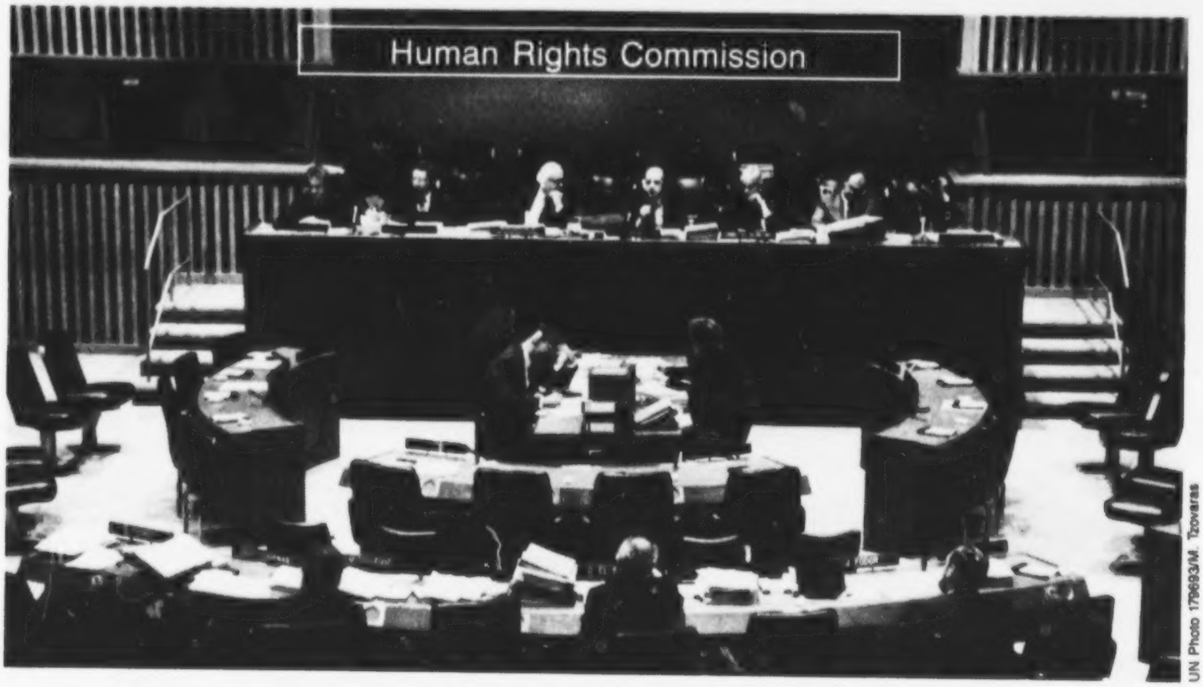
Global economy feeble

The world economy did worse in 1991 than predicted a year ago when it was already weakening rapidly. So stated the Secretary-General in a report *(E/1992/INF/1)* issued through the Economic and Social Council on 31 January. Global output fell for the first time since the end of the Second World War and world trade virtually stagnated.

The decline is expected to give way to an increase in 1992, but this may not be more than 1.5 per cent, much the same as in 1990 and less than half the rate in the late 1980s.

World per capita income will fall for the third consecutive year. The developed market economies will probably grow by around 2.5 per cent, while output in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union is likely to fall further. A marginal improvement in growth is expected for developing countries.

The external debt of all developing countries totalled $1.35 trillion by the end of 1991, according to a new World Bank publication, *World Debt Tables 1991-92*. While some middle-income debtor countries made progress towards re-establishing access to credit markets, many severely indebted low- and lower-middle-income countries are a long way from seeing the end to their debt problems, the publication indicates.



UN Photo 179693/M. Tzovaras

Two new draft declarations on minorities, disappearances approved

Action plan against sale of children adopted

Approval of two new draft declarations—on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and on protection of all persons from enforced disappearance—highlighted the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights (27 January-6 March, Geneva).

The Commission also adopted a Programme of Action for the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, submitted by its Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

In adopting a total of 99 texts—82 resolutions and 17 decisions—the 53-member Commission continued its work towards monitoring implementation of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other important global instruments dealing with civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Work proceeded on draft declarations on indigenous rights and on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The body decided to establish a working group to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the 1984 Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment based on a Costa Rican proposal aimed at facilitating visits to places of detention to prevent torture from taking place. The Group is to meet for two weeks before the 1993 session of the Commission.

Italy offered to host the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, previously proposed for Berlin.

The Commission reviewed specific human rights situations in 16 countries and territories, and dealt with alleged violations in southern Africa, the Middle East and other regions.

During a confidential review of possible gross human rights violations, the Commission looked at cases involving Bahrain, Chad, Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia, Sudan and Zaire.

The Commission noted a proposal to establish an emergency mechanism to enable the UN to react, witlhout delay, to acute situations arising from gross human rights violations. It envisaged an expert group to undertake fact-finding missions, followed by "exceptional" Commission meetings. The proposal will be considered in 1993.

The Commission also favoured the creation of a UN standing team of forensic experts to participate in the exhumation and identification of probable victims of human rights violations or in training local teams for the same purpose. The practical and financial viability of such a scheme and workable arrangements for its management were to be studied.

The Commission transmitted to the Economic and Social Council principles on the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, for adoption by the General Assembly.

Minorities declaration

The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve its draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to minorities, for subsequent adoption by the General Assembly.

The nine-article declaration states, among other things, that States "shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities", and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity. Also, States shall act to ensure that minorities "exercise fully and effectively all their human rights . . . without any discrimination and in full equality before the law".

Also called for are: measures for minority participation in the country's economic progress and development; formulation of national policies and programmes that would give "due regard for the legitimate interests" of minorities; and cooperation on questions relating to minorities, including exchange of information and experiences.

Disappearance text

A draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance was also recommended for consideration bv the Council and for adoption by the Assembly in 1992.

The 21-article text states, among other things, that no State "shall practise, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances". Each State "shall take . . . measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearance". All acts of enforced disappearance "shall be offences under criminal law, punishable by appropriate penalties which shall take into account their extreme seriousness".

It also states that no order or instruction of any public authority, civilian, military or other and no circumstances whatsoever may be invoked to justify enforced disappearances. No State "shall expel, return ('*refouler*') or extradite" a person to another State where there were substantial grounds to believe that he would be in danger of enforced disappearance. The Commission urged Governments to take steps to prevent and punish acts of enforced disappearance.

States were called on to establish a procedure such as habeas corpus by which anyone deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention would be entitled to institute proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention was found to be unlawful. States were also called on to maintain the right to such a procedure at all times and under all circumstances, including during states of emergency.

The question of "fraudulent enrichment of top State officials prejudicial to the public interest, the factors responsible for it, and the agents involved in all countries in such faudulent enrichment" was to be considered in relation to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

Children: Their rights

The new Programme of Action states that the trafficking in and sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography constitute modern forms of slavery incompatible with human rights, human dignity and values, and jeopardized the welfare of individuals, families and society as a whole.

To prevent such trafficking, concerted measures were called for at the national, regional and international levels, including information, education, assistance and rehabilitation, legislative measures and a strengthening of law enforcement. Coordinating agencies should be appointed or established at all levels.

For the future of all children, it

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

UN Photo 179357

Commission Chairman Pal Solt of Hungary *(centre)* with Under-Secretary-General Jan Martenson *(left)*.

was stressed, sustained and sustainable economic growth and development in all countries must be ensured. States, it was affirmed, should accord a "clear high level of commitment and priority" to combat and eliminate the trafficking in, sale and sexual exploitation of children. Such activities could not be justified by reason of poverty or underdevelopment.

The Commission recommended that States adopt measures to carry out the Programme at the national and international levels. Non-governmental organizations were urged to adopt the Programme for the development of activities relating to their mandates.

In another action, the Sub-Commission was asked to give utmost priority to re-elaboration of a draft programme of action to eliminate the exploitation of child labour, for approval in 1993.

Also, States that had not done so were called upon to sign, ratify or accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The establishment of bodies and institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, acting on behalf of the child in light of his best interests, was encouraged.

Country reports

The Commission adopted resolutions relating to specific human rights situations in Afghanistan, Albania, Cambodia, Cuba, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait, Myanmar, Romania and Western Sahara.

Albania: The Government was asked to continue to adopt measures by which freedom, democracy and the rule of law would be established and the human rights of all citizens would be promoted and protected. The rights of minorities should be respected, the Commission stated.

Albania said political pluralism was encouraged and special laws guaranteed freedom of expression and assembly. Freedom of religion had been re-established and churches could now function normally. A special parliamentary commission would oversee protection of fundamental human rights. Albania would respect the rights of minorities.

Cuba: The Commission deplored Cuba's decision not permitting the Secretary-General's Special Representative to meet with Cuban citizens or Government officials. It also regretted numerous, uncontested reports of basic human rights violations.

Cuba rejected the resolution and all others that singled out Cuba for discriminatory treatment.

Haiti: The Commission strongly condemned the September 1991 overthrow of the constitutionally elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the use of violence and military coercion. Deep concern was expressed over the "flagrant human rights violations" committed under the "illegal Government" set up following the coup.

A Special Rapporteur was to be appointed to report on Haiti's human rights situation.

Iran: Continuing reports of human rights violations in Iran were of concern, specifically the absence of guarantees of due process of law and discriminatory treatment of certain groups of citizens for reason of their religious beliefs.

Iran, looking forward to a depoliticized UN, stated that extraneous political influences had resulted in the "unfortunate" resolution, which was "filled with false statements".

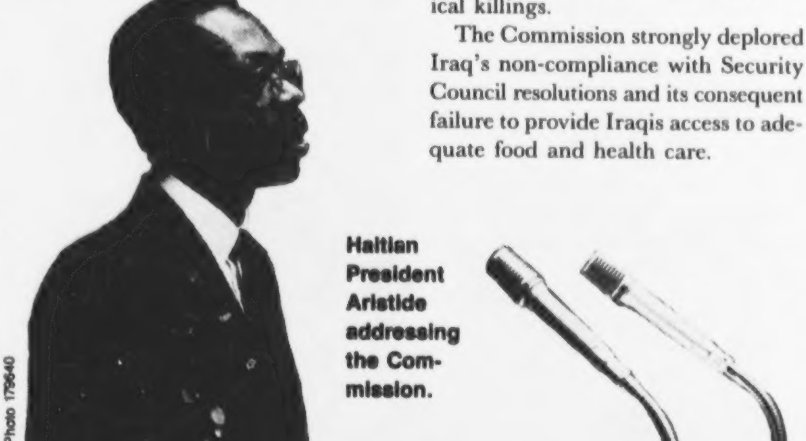
Ask amendment for Racial Discrimination Convention

States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination approved a draft resolution on 15 January, which would have the General Assembly decide to amend the Convention to ensure that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination—the Convention's monitoring body—would be entirely funded from the regular UN budget. Such a change could be effected only if two thirds of the States parties agreed.

The Convention, with 130 States parties as at 15 January, is the most universally accepted of all UN human rights instruments. It was adopted by the Assembly on 21 December 1965 and entered into force on 4 January 1969.

Iraq: The Commission strongly condemned the "massive violations of human rights, of the gravest nature", by Iraq, in particular summary and arbitrary executions, orchestrated mass executions and burials and extrajudicial killings, including political killings.

The Commission strongly deplored Iraq's non-compliance with Security Council resolutions and its consequent failure to provide Iraqis access to adequate food and health care.



UN Photo 179640

Haitian President Aristide addressing the Commission.

Iraq said the resolution was the second round of offensive against it. The Special Rapporteur could not be neutral, since he was from a country which had "attacked" Iraq. Most co-sponsors of the text had attacked Iraq and prevented Iraqi children from enjoying their human rights, by way of an aggressively pursued economic food and drug blockade.

The Commission expressed deep concern for Kuwaiti and third-country nationals detained and missing in Iraq. Iraq was asked to provide full information on all those abducted from Kuwait between 2 August 1990 and 26 February 1991 who might still be detained, and to free those persons without delay.

Iraq said it had returned more than 6,000 nationals of Kuwait and of other countries. The more than 3,500 Kuwaitis still in Iraq had expressed a desire to return to their country, but Kuwait had accepted only 468. Iraq had no information on the Kuwaitis not accounted for.

Myanmar: The Commission deplored the fact that the Government had not fulfilled its commitments to take steps towards the establishment of a democratic State. It was concerned that a number of political leaders, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other National League for Democracy leaders, remained deprived of their liberty. A special rapporteur would be named to establish direct contacts with the Government and people of Myanmar.

Myanmar called the resolution "totally unacceptable, lopsided, negative and highly intrusive". Its provisions were based on unsubstantiated and politically motivated allegations.

East Timor: The Commission noted with serious concern the human rights situation in the island. It strongly deplored the violent incident in Dili during a demonstration on 12 November 1991, which had resulted in the loss of lives and injuries to a large number of civilians.

Indonesia was urged to improve the human rights situation in East Timor and facilitate access to the island by humanitarian and human rights organizations.

Indonesia said that, contrary to some misleading foreign reports, the demonstration had not been entirely peaceful. It was in an atmosphere of rising tension and confusion that the shootings had taken place. A National Commission of Inquiry determined that inadequate riot control procedures existed and that, in order to uphold justice, action must be taken against all involved in the incident.

Sri Lanka: The Commission acknowledged measures by Sri Lanka to address its human rights situation. However, it was still seriously concerned over the large number of reported disappearances.

Sri Lanka said it was willing to extend the mandate of the Commission on Involuntary Removal for a further year. As for continuing armed insurgency, Sri Lanka was making every effort to achieve a political solution with the participation of all parties.

UNICEF Photo

Other action

In other action, the Commission also recommended:

- Launching in 1993 a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination.
- More accessions to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- New nomenclature for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People: "1993—The International Year of the World's Indigenous People";
- Appointment of Erica-Irene Daes as Special Rapporteur to study ways to strengthen respect for the cultural property of indigenous peoples;
- A new progress report on human rights and the environment by Special Rapporteur Fatma Zohra Ksentini;
- Severe punishment for perpetrators of torture, especially officials in charge of places of detention where torture had taken place;
- State action to protect children and migrant women against exploitation by prostitution and other slavery-like practices, and to ensure national policies of information, prevention and rehabiliation of women victims of prostitution.
- Involvement of trade union organizations in effective processes of popular participation and development;
- Measures to combat religious intolerance and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect; and
- Avoidance of measures detrimental to enjoyment by citizens of basic rights, which caused nationals to flee their countries for their own protection.

Women's Commission: Action for equality, development, peace

Highlighting the themes of equality, development and peace, speakers during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (11-20 March, Vienna) called for gender equality to become as much a reality in everyday life as it is on the books of international law.

"Considerable progress has been made in eliminating *'de jure'* discrimination through changes in laws", Chafika Meslem, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women told the Commission. However, she added, facts showed that there had been less progress in achieving the elimination of "de facto" discrimination.

To help women achieve greater "real life" equality, the Commission approved a text by which the Preparatory Committee for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights would be called upon to take into account *de jure* and de facto discrimination, which continue to impede women's full enjoyment of their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

Proposals were also adopted which aimed to integrate women, especially the elderly, into the development process and to involve them in environmental protection.

Measures were recommended to strengthen: women's participation in decision-making bodies; attention paid to women's issues at international meetings; the status of women in the UN Secretariat; and the role of women in preparations for the 1994 International Year of the Family. The Commission decided that the 1995 World Conference would convene in Beijing, China.

It also called for legislation prohibiting violence against women and work on a draft declaration on the issue. Violence by armed groups and drug traffickers, who terrorize and threaten women, was condemned.

During the eleventh session (20-30 January, New York) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were asked to institute effective legal measures to protect women against violence.

Several development-related projects were approved, including a pilot exchange of women farmers between the United States and Bulgaria and Hungary, at the twelfth session (17-21 February, Santo Domingo) of the Board of Trustees for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

"Women play a critical role in the development process", said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a message on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March). "Plans for sustainable development must be formulated with the full participation of women and reflect their interests and perspectives."

Julie Andrews with Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali.

Promoting 'opportunities and choices'

British-born film star Julie Andrews was recently named Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Ms. Andrews will travel to promote the work of the Fund, which provides financial and technical support to low-income women in developing countries.

At a March luncheon at UN Headquarters, the mother of five, including two adopted Vietnamese orphans, said simply: "I am a woman who has had extraordinary privilege and good fortune. I was born in a safe and friendly place. I have the right to travel, to be free, to be allowed to fulfil an ambition and to explore my own potential. I feel this is a time in my life for me to help others less fortunate to have those same opportunities and choices."

UNIFEM's investment in women, Ms. Andrews said, aims to give them access to vital information in economic and social fields, to train them and give them moral support. Her first ambassadorial trip was in April to Senegal in West Africa.

—*Elsa Endrst*

Chronicle BookWatch

Women: Challenges to the Year 2000

UN Department of Public Information
United Nations Publications, New York, 1991
96 pp., $12.95. Sales No. E.91.I.21 ISBN 92-1-100458-6

Boldly designed and effectively written, *Women* makes a notable contribution to what its resourceful creators call "a worldwide educational campaign" to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in implementing the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Chapters outline the current situation and remaining challenges facing women in law, health, education, work, politics and peace-building.

Long-range World Population Projections: Two Centuries of Population Growth, 1950-2150

UN Department of International
Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Publications, New York, 1992
35 pp., Sales No. E.92.XIII.3 ISBN 92-1-151241-7

Long-range population projections are critical in the ongoing debates about environment and sustainable development. This indispensible report updates the UN's estimates and projections of population size and growth, as well as demographic indicators to the year 2150. With the present global population estimated at 5.3 billion, medium fertility will mean 10 billion people by 2050 and 11.5 billion in 2150. High fertility, however, could catapult the number to 12.5 billion by 2050 and 28 billion a century later.

Green Energy: Biomass Fuels and the Environment

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Publications, New York, 1991
54 pp, Sales No. E.91.III.D.5 ISBN 92-807-1308-6

Energy made from biomass—living material produced on Earth through photosynthesis—"will become the hot environmental topic of the 1990s", UNEP Executive Director Mostafa K. Tolba writes in the foreword to this primer for people with no technical background in the subject. The use of wood for fuel has already become central to the international debate on deforestation. This clearly-written and well-illustrated book explains both the benefits and drawbacks of using biomass fuels.

World Education Report 1991

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO, Paris, 1991
149 pp., ISBN 92-3-102751-4

Worldwide, almost 1 billion people are enrolled in formal education, while more than 44 million serve as teachers. With this first issue of a new biennial series designed to provide information on education around the world, UNESCO joins the company of other UN organizations that prepare global reports on developments in their field of work. The 1991 report—a review of global educational growth over the last two decades—finds that increased access to schooling in the developing countries has finally halted growth of the number of illiterate adults in the world. After reaching a peak of around 950 million at the end of the 1980s, the number is now falling. Regional tables and country-by-country education indicators provide a body of essential data.

Choices: The Human Development Magazine

Vol. 1, No. 1, April 1992
UN Development Programme, New York

The goal of *Choices*, UNDP's new periodical, is "to offer a wide range of material to choose from, and to fuel the very dialogue and debate that is the essence of human development". The range of articles in this first issue of *Choices*, which replaces *World Development* magazine, is indeed wide: reconstruction in Cambodia, saving the ozone layer, women as peacemakers, the cost of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, freedom of the press in Africa, reconsidering human development, Peru's cholera fight and Mongolia's road to reform. Moreover, authors speak their minds.

Anarchy or Order: Annual Reports 1982-1991

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
UN Publications, New York, 1991
362 pp., $9.95. Sales No. E.91.1.52 ISBN 92-1-100466-7

The former Secretary-General's annual reports to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization during his tenure reflect the state of the world in the mirror of the UN. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's 10 annual reports cover what he calls "years of tumultuous change". This handsome volume offers a unique UN perspective on the transformation in world affairs.

Reviewed by Harold Fruchtbaum
Professor, Columbia University, New York

NEWS ALMANAC

New regional Conventions

Two new regional Conventions aimed at protecting transboundary watercourses and lakes, and mitigating the transboundary effects of industrial accidents were adopted by member Governments of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at a ministerial meeting in Helsinki (17-18 March). The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents were opened for signature by member countries of the ECE and the European Community.

The forgotten hostage

UN Photo 142199/M. Grant

Mr. Collett

An appeal for information about the fate of British journalist Alec Collett was renewed in March by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Mr. Collett was kidnapped in Lebanon while on a writing assignment for UNRWA seven years ago, on 25 March 1985. In April 1986, his captors claimed that he had been killed, but former hostage John McCarthy after his release last year said that Alec Collett was still alive. At a ceremony at UN Headquarters, hosted by the UN Correspondents Association on the seventh anniversary of Mr. Collett's kidnapping, his wife Elaine told the assembled journalists, "I feel with all due respect that Alec was forgotten, overlooked".

New funds for elimination of racial discrimination

At a ceremony on 20 March at UN Headquarters in New York to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 27 Governments pledged contributions totalling more than $7 million to three UN trust funds and programmes for southern Africa: The UN Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the UN Trust Fund for South Africa, and the UN Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid. The annual ceremony, which was presided over this year by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, commemorates a 1960 incident in Sharpeville, South Africa, in which 69 peaceful demonstrators were killed.

Saving the African elephant

The ban on ivory trade has improved the survival rate of the African elephant, but the largest living land mammal is still threatened with extinction, concluded participants of a five-day African Elephant Range States and Donors meeting in Nairobi (27-31 January). It was estimated that African nations needed $305 million in donations to make their national elephant conservation plans a success.

Trade in African elephants remained banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, following its eighth conference in Nairobi in March, although five southern African countries had proposed that their herds be downgraded to a classification that allows controlled trade.

Disabled Decade ends

A ceremony in Vienna on 27 March commemorating the thirty-third World Day of the Disabled of the International Federation of Disabled Workers and Civilian Handicapped also marked the end of the UN Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). Speakers during the occasion stressed that despite the achievements of the Decade—especially in raising awareness on disability issues—barriers and discrimination still must be overcome in order to achieve the goal of full participation and equality for disabled people.

UN Photo 179551/M. Tzovaras

Five hundred members of the Lions Clubs International observed their fourteenth annual "Lions Day with the United Nations" at UN Headquarters on 9 March. Donald Banker *(second from left)*, President of the International Association of Lions Clubs, presented an award to the winner of the fourth annual International Peace Poster Contest, 12-year-old Yuki Nakajima of Japan, while her parents and Eugeniusz Wyzner *(left)*, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information, looked on.

Charter Committee considers enhanced UN peace role

Proposals aimed at improving UN work in maintaining international peace and security highlighted the 1992 session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (3-21 February, New York).

The Committee reviewed working papers submitted by the Russian Federation on UN cooperation with regional organizations and on other issues; a 40-Power working paper on UN Charter provisions relating to assistance to third States affected by the application of economic sanctions; a proposed set of conciliation rules for the peaceful settlement of disputes, submitted by Guatemala; and a Cuban text on strengthening the role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Governments invited to adopt international nuclear event scale

The International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have invited Governments to adopt a new scale for use in classifying incidents and accidents at nuclear power plants. The decision came at the conclusion of a technical committee meeting on the International Nuclear Event Scale, held from 16 to 18 March in Vienna.

United States suspends cooperation with decolonization Committee

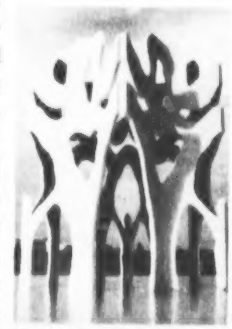
The United States has suspended cooperation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In a 4 February letter to the General Assembly President, the United States urged the Special Committee to reform its work. It said the Committee was taking up "inappropriate" issues—South Africa, apartheid, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico and military activities in United States territories—and had "not yet fully set aside those practices of the past which focused on an outmoded agenda".

Population prize shared

The 1992 United Nations Population Award will be shared by J. R. D. Tata, an Indian industrialist and pioneer in his country's population movement, and the New York-based Population Council, an international non-governmental organization known for its work in the development of contraceptives. The award, presented annually to individuals or institutions that have made outstanding contributions towards increasing public awareness of population problems and their solution, was announced on 5 February. The prizes, which include a diploma, a gold medal and cash, will be presented to each winner at a special ceremony in June.

UN Stamp Corner

To mark the unprecedented gathering of world leaders for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the UN Postal Administration (UNPA) has created a special philatelic souvenir pack. It will be available on 3 June, the first day of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Including two jumbo covers, a special first-day cover and UNPA's first ever "Conference Card" illustrated with the Rio skyline, the collection comes in an elegant green and gold folder at a cost of $15.25.



"Paradise Regained" by sculptress Edwina Sandys

"Last Turn—Your Turn" by Robert Rauschenberg

The souvenir cachets are illustrated with works created by three renowned artists: Robert Rauschenberg's "Last Turn—Your Turn", an abstract collage of bold primary colours; Edwina Sandys' sculpture, "Paradise Regained", which stands outside the conference centre in Rio; and Peter Max's set of three whimsical Earth Summit stamps, which portray in vibrant colours fantasy images of our planet *(see inside cover)*.

Also using an environmental theme, UNPA released in March a set of "Clean Oceans" stamps, depicting a lush array of marine life. Issued in denominations of 29 United States cents, 0,80 Swiss francs and 7 Austrian shillings, the stamps feature the artwork of Braldt Bralds of the Netherlands, designer of the 1988 "Survival of the Forests" stamps.

Braldt Bralds' "Clean Oceans" design.

Coming Up. . .

A preview of some important United Nations conferences and events

July-September 1992

New York

6-17 July	Group of Qualified Governmental Experts to Undertake a Study of Defensive Security Concepts and Policies, 3rd session
	Panel of Governmental Technical Experts on the Register of Conventional Arms, 3rd session
27 July-7 August	Group of Governmental Experts to Carry Out a Study on the Application of Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space, 3rd session
July/August	Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
7 August	Special Committee against Apartheid—Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa
10-21 August	Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
25 August-3 September	Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
15 September	Opening of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly

Geneva

13-31 July	Human Rights Committee, 45th session
20 July-3 September	Conference on Disarmament, third part
3-21 August	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 42nd session
3-28 August	Commission on Human Rights—Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 44th session
24-28 August	Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Vienna

21-25 September	International Atomic Energy Agency—General Conference

Other Locations

13-31 July	International Civil Service Commission, 36th session, London
22-24 September	International Monetary Fund/World Bank—annual meetings of the Boards of Governors, Washington, D.C.

Membership of Principal United Nations Organs in 1992

General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all 175 United Nations Member States:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, *Argentina, Armenia, *Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, *Belarus, *Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, *Bolivia, Botswana, *Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, *Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, *Chile, *China, *Colombia, Comoros, Congo, *Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, *Cuba, Cyprus, *Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, *Dominican Republic, *Ecuador, *Egypt, *El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, *Ethiopia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, *France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, *Greece, Grenada, *Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, *Haiti, *Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, *India, Indonesia, *Iran, *Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, *Lebanon, Lesotho, *Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, *Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, *Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, *Netherlands, *New Zealand, *Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, *Norway, Oman, Pakistan, *Panama, Papua New Guinea, *Paraguay, *Peru, *Philippines, *Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, *Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, *South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, *Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, *Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, *Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, *United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, *United States, *Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, *Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, *Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Founding Member

Security Council

The Security Council has 15 members. The Charter has designated five States as permanent members, and the General Assembly elects 10 other members for two-year terms. The term of office of each non-permanent member of the Council ends on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States.

The 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council in 1992 are: Austria (1992), Belgium (1992), Cape Verde (1993), Ecuador (1992), Hungary (1993), India (1992), Japan (1993), Morocco (1993), Venezuela (1993), Zimbabwe (1992).

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council has 54 members elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. The term of office for each member expires on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below. In 1992, the Council is composed of the following 54 States:

Algeria (1992), Angola, (1994), Argentina (1993), Australia (1994), Austria (1993), Bahrain (1992), Bangladesh (1994), Belarus (1994), Belgium (1994), Benin (1994), Botswana (1993), Brazil (1994), Bulgaria (1992), Burkina Faso (1992), Canada (1992), Chile (1993), China (1992), Colombia (1994), Ecuador (1992), Ethiopia (1994), Finland (1992), France (1993), Germany (1993), Guinea (1993), India (1994), Iran (1992), Italy (1994), Jamaica (1992), Japan (1993), Kuwait (1994), Madagascar (1994), Malaysia (1993), Mexico (1992), Morocco (1993), Pakistan (1992), Peru (1993), Philippines (1994), Poland (1994), Romania (1992), Russian Federation (1992), Rwanda (1992), Somalia (1993), Spain (1993), Suriname (1994), Swaziland (1994), Sweden (1992), Syrian Arab Republic (1993), Togo (1993), Trinidad and Tobago (1993), Turkey (1993), United Kingdom (1992), United States (1994), Yugoslavia (1993), Zaire (1992).

Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council has five members. One member, the United States, administers the Trust Territory of Palau. The non-administering members—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom—are the other four permanent members of the Security Council. China does not participate in the work of the Trusteeship Council.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice has 15 members, elected by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Judges hold nine-year terms, which end on 5 February of the year indicated in parentheses below.

The Judges, listed in their official order of precedence, are:

Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings of the United Kingdom (2000), Shigeru Oda of Japan (1994), Manfred Lachs of Poland (1994), Bola Ajibola of Nigeria (1994), Roberto Ago of Italy (1997), Stephen M. Schwebel of the United States (1997), Mohammed Bedjaoui of Algeria (1997), Ni Zhengyu of China (1994), Jens Evensen of Norway (1997), Nikolai K. Tarassov of the Russian Federation (1997), Gilbert Guillaume of France (2000), Mohamed Shahabuddeen of Guyana (1997), Andrés Aguilar Mawdsley of Venezuela (2000), Christopher G. Weeramantry of Sri Lanka (2000) and Raymond Ranjeva of Madagascar (2000).